



## 7 – NATIONAL MATTERS

### National Matters Update by Australia

Australia presents an update on national matters of relevance to the work of IALA.

#### **Impact of COVID-19 on AtoN Maintenance**

Australia has been less impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic than many countries, and our AtoN maintenance and capital programmes have continued with minor interruptions. Closure of state borders to non-essential travellers and travel restrictions in traditional communities caused delays; however we successfully ensured safe movement of essential AtoN contractors. As restrictions are being progressively lifted we are slowly returning to our normal activities. Our thoughts are with those countries who have suffered far greater disruption than Australia.

#### **Climate Change**

Australia, like many countries, is closely examining the potential impacts of climate change. We are already seeing specific impacts on the maritime industry through more extreme weather events that can threaten port infrastructure and AtoN's. In the last two years, cyclones have cost Australia more than \$1 million in repairs to damaged AtoN's.

Sea level rises also have obvious implications for low lying areas where many AtoN's are located, and the potential for more wild fires will also have a devastating effect on the maritime industry through physical damage of AtoN's and reduced visibility in coastal areas due to smoke.

This is a serious problem that requires global solutions. However, when it comes to the services provided by IALA members, it is the responsibility of us all to closely monitor developments and be ready to implement changes as and when needed.

#### **Discontinuation of Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS)**

AMSA will discontinue its radio-beacon DGPS service from 1 July 2020. AMSA is satisfied the service now offers little benefit to mariners given the advances in performance that have been made with GPS, and recognising there are multiple global satellite navigation constellations.

AMSA has consulted widely with industry and has promulgated information on our website about the decision. Marine Notice 03/2020 and an Australian Notice to Mariners 363/2020 are available.

Please refer to AMSA's website for further information for alternate options for high accuracy positioning - [Shutdown of AMSA's DGPS](#).

**Australia / New Zealand Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) Project**

The Governments of Australia and New Zealand have initiated a regional SBAS project for the Australia and New Zealand region. The project will augment multi-constellation Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) signals across all of mainland Australia, New Zealand and its maritime zones. It will also support the aviation, road transport and other sectors, who all have a requirement for high accuracy and integrity-assured positioning.

The project is now open for tender and is planned to be approved for aviation use by late 2023.

More information on the SBAS project can be found on the [Geoscience Australia](#) website.

**Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)**

AMSA is the national competent authority for VTS in Australia. There are presently 15 authorised VTS in Australia and a further 10 VTS are preparing to apply for authorisation.