

**7 – NATIONAL MATTERS****7.2 Australia****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 our state borders to non-essential travellers and the travel restrictions in traditional communities caused delays; however we successfully ensured safe movement of essential AtoN contractors. Our thoughts are with those countries who have suffered, and who continue to combat, far greater disruption than Australia.

Climate Change

Australia, like many countries, is closely considering and addressing the impacts of climate change on our AtoN network. The specific impacts on the maritime industry through more extreme weather events that can threaten port infrastructure and AtoN's are being monitored.

Australia's priority climate change concerns at present are:

- Addressing the costs of repairs to damaged AtoNs. In the last two years, AtoN repairs due to cyclone damage have cost Australia more than AUD\$1 million.
- Tropical cyclones predicted to become more intense, requiring structures to be designed to be more resilient, which inevitably increases construction cost;
- Sea level rises and the obvious implications for low lying areas where many AtoN's are located, and
- As we come into the southern hemisphere's summer period, there is potential for bushfires to cause physical damage to AtoN's and for smoke to reduce visibility in coastal areas.

These are serious problems that are increasing in their intensity and consequences, requiring all IALA members to work together to closely monitor developments and be ready to implement the necessary changes. Australia looks forward to working on these issues with technical committee members and Counsellors.

Discontinuation of Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS)

After widespread industry consultation and an extensive information campaign, AMSA has discontinued its radio-beacon DGPS service from 1 July 2020. AMSA was satisfied the service offered little ongoing benefit to mariners given: the advances in performance of GPS and recognising there are now multiple global satellite navigation constellations and emerging augmentation systems.

Marine Notice 03/2020 and an Australian Notice to Mariners 363/2020 have been issued. AMSA's website has further information for alternate options for high accuracy positioning - [Shutdown of AMSA's DGPS](http://www.amsa.gov.au) (www.amsa.gov.au).



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 our 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](http://www.ga.gov.au) website (www.ga.gov.au).

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.