



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMSA RESPONSE TO OIL LEAK FROM WEST ATLAS OFF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AMSA is coordinating response arrangements with regard to the oil leak from the *West Atlas* off the Western Australian coast.

Through processes within the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (The National Plan) the company responsible for the *West Atlas*, has formally handed over the oil leak response to AMSA, via the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

This leak has occurred in one of the remotest locations possible, making any operation difficult.

It is too early to determine the full impact of this incident.

PTTEP Australasia retains responsibility for the incident and ongoing measures to stop the leak. AMSA is working with the company and has stressed the urgency to repair the well head and stop the oil flow and PTTEP has initiated actions to achieve this.

A dispersant capable Hercules from Singapore has been contracted and is due in Darwin mid-morning with the intention of flying over the slick to drop dispersants this afternoon. Additionally, the Fixed Wing Aerial Dispersant Contractor, *AMR*, has been activated and has deployed two aircraft and a manager to the closest aerodrome (Truscott) as contingencies

AMSA personnel have deployed to Truscott, Darwin and Perth (to PTTEP Incident Control Centre) overnight.

Dispersant stocks (approximately 50 tonnes) have been deployed from the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSC) by air ready for operations tomorrow. AMSA has sought assistance from Emergency Management Australia in the provision of transport and logistic support.

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