



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMSA CONTINUES RESPONSE TO *WEST ATLAS* INCIDENT OFF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The ongoing response to the *West Atlas* incident continued from first light this morning. The slick remains localised in the vicinity of the rig. A Hercules aircraft is flying over the oil leak this morning and applying dispersant to the slick. This dispersant enhances the natural dispersion process. An additional two dispersant capable aircraft are on standby at Truscott airport to supplement the operation.

The dispersant on board the Hercules is from stockpiles in Darwin, and was sufficient to stock both Darwin and Truscott aircraft. Stocks have been supplemented from supplies at the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre in Geelong to ensure we are well placed if operations are protracted.

A 2 nautical mile exclusion zone for the operational aircraft exists around the rig as a margin to ensure the safety of crews while operating in the area.

The National Plan is an industry-government cooperative arrangement that seeks to cover pollution around Australia's 40,000 kilometre coastline. This includes strategic stockpiles of dispersant in 9 locations. This ensures AMSA is ready and equipped for any oil leak incident as illustrated by the *West Atlas* incident.

Within fifteen minutes of notification of the incident AMSA was able to mobilise equipment and personnel to ensure operations could begin as quickly as possible.

AMSA is in close consultation with environmental specialists and continues to monitor this aspect of the operation.

PTTEP Australasia continues to cooperate with AMSA and is responsible for the incident and the stopping of the leak.

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Tracey Jiggins 0418164901