

NATIONAL PLAN HIGHLIGHTS 2002–2003

The 2000 National Plan Review

- The Inter-Governmental Agreement has now been signed by all jurisdictions.
- National Plan Management Committee met in Sydney on 16 September 2002 seeking additional information on jurisdictional expenditure on National Plan activities and spill incident statistics.

Exercise 2002

Exercise 2002 took place in Torres Strait on 31 October and was designed to raise awareness of cultural, environmental and jurisdictional issues within the Torres Strait and identify improvements to the strategic and operational readiness to a major spill in the region.

Spillcon

The 10th biennial oil spill conference, Spillcon 2002, was attended by more than 250 specialists at Manly in Sydney. The theme of the conference was 'Keeping the Waters Clean'.

Prestige

On 19 November 2002 the oil tanker *Prestige*, laden with 77,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, broke in two off the coast of Galicia, Spain, spilling an unknown but substantial quantity of its cargo. Travel assistance for two specialist wildlife personnel from Sydney's Taronga Zoo was provided by the National Plan to assist European clean up teams. This experience has helped to enhance Australia's own wildlife response arrangements.

Chemical Spill Response Training 2003

A National Plan Maritime Chemical Spill Response training course was held from 6 to 8 May 2003 in Melbourne in conjunction with Marine Safety Victoria. AMSA took a leading role in developing material and providing presentations at the course.

Place of Refuge Guidelines

The National Maritime Place of Refuge Risk Assessment Guidelines were endorsed by the Australian Transport Council on 23 May 2003.