

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The National Plan remained active during 2000-2001. Although there were no major spills, the National Plan responded to seven incidents. The largest response during the period followed the grounding of the Malaysian container ship, *Bunga Teratai Satu* in the Great Barrier Reef near Cairns on 2 November 2000. While the ship did not spill any of the fuel oil on board, it did sustain considerable damage and the National Plan was activated as a preventative measure. Equipment from Cairns and Townsville was deployed with further equipment in Townsville put on standby. Response personnel from various Queensland agencies and AMSA were involved in the operation.

The 2000 National Plan Review Report was completed and presented to the Australian Transport Council (ATC). Several recommendations from this report have now been implemented with the remainder to be implemented over the next 12 months. One of the most significant recommendations was the change to the management structure. The National Plan Management Committee (NPMC) was formed to provide strategic planning and high-level management to the National Plan. The National Plan Operations Group (NPOG) will provide support to the Management Committee by addressing operational aspects of the National Plan.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was another major recommendation of the 2000 Review Report. The IGA will ensure that the national approach to preparedness and response to oil and chemical spills in the marine environment is continued and strengthened, and provide a mechanism to ensure decision making under the National Plan is cooperative and that the obligations of all parties are met. On 25 May 2001 ATC Ministers agreed to sign the IGA.

To complement the IGA, a Memorandum of Understanding on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response between AMSA and the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) was developed and signed on 6 June 2001. The MOU formalises the intention of AMSA and AIP to cooperate to ensure that the National Plan operates effectively and wherever possible enhanced.

On behalf of the National Plan Management Committee, I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances for the year ended 30 June 2001.

David Baird
Interim Chairman
National Plan Management Committee