

ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL PLAN 2001-2002 FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial statements reporting the cost of National Plan administration and operations have been reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers and are included in the Financial Statements on page 17 of this report.

The operating deficit of \$1,058,235 for the 2001-2002 financial year was in line with the 'break even over time' policy set by government. Revenue from the Protection of the Sea Levy provided the main source of funding for National Plan operations. The Protection of the Sea Levy remained at 3.3 cents per net registered tonne.

Total income received during the 2001-2002 financial year decreased by \$27,985, compared with the previous financial year. Incidents during the year consisted of a number of minor spills committed by unidentified parties. The decrease in incident recoveries reflects the decrease in the number of significant pollution incidents compared with the previous financial year.

National Plan expenditure increased by 28 per cent from 2000-2001, with total expenses of \$5,145,532. This is largely the result of increased depreciation charges incurred as a consequence of the proposed handing over of Tier 1 equipment to the States/NT.

As at 30 June 2002 the National Plan's total assets were \$7,656,110 compared with total liabilities of \$518,411. This places the National Plan in a sound financial position, with equity totalling \$7,137,699.

SAFE HAVENS AND SALVAGE CONFERENCE

A Safe Havens and Salvage Conference jointly sponsored by AMSA and the Association of Australian Ports and Marine Authorities (AAPMA), was held in Sydney on 19-20 February 2002. The Conference was attended by a number of international experts and discussed the practical and legal implications of ship refuge access and salvage operations around the Australian coastline. Key issues covered included:

- the application of Commonwealth and State powers of intervention;

- legal implications for all organisations involved in a salvage operation;
- criteria for selecting and identifying places of refuge; and,
- major salvage challenges in the application of awards under Lloyds Open Forum 2000 (LOF) and Special Compensation P&I Clause (SCOPIIC).

The Conference identified the need for the preparation of national guidelines for providing places of refuge. The guidelines will be prepared under the auspices of the National Plan Management Committee.

MEETINGS DURING 2001-2002

The National Plan Management Committee (NPMC) met in Adelaide on 28 September 2001 and in Canberra on 26 March 2002, with the main agenda item being the finalisation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the National Plan for consideration by the Australian Transport Council in May 2002.

Twelve of the seventeen recommendations from the 2000 National Plan Review have now been implemented. The remaining five, generally relating to detailed funding arrangements, are currently being considered by the Committee with a view to implementation by the end of the 2002-2003 financial year. For budgetary reasons, completion of Recommendation 8 relating to equipment allocations to ports, will be implemented over a further two-year period.

The National Plan Operations Group (NPOG) met in Geelong on 22 November 2001 and in Sydney on 30 May 2002 to consider issues such as the distribution and transfer of National Plan first strike capability assets to the States/NT, review recommendations from incident/exercise reports, review and implement the revised National Marine Oil Spill and Chemical Spill Contingency Plans and develop and implement the National Guidelines for the Development of State/NT Oiled Wildlife Response Plans.

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AUDITS AND REVIEWS

A number of audits and reviews concerning the operation of the National Plan have been conducted since its inception. Information on audits in previous years can be found in past National Plan annual reports.

During 2001-2002, an audit of AMSA's responsibilities in implementing relevant recommendations arising from the 2000 National Plan Review was undertaken by KPMG. The audit result indicated that AMSA, as manager of the National Plan, had undertaken its implementation responsibilities in a thorough, well organised manner, with appropriate consideration given to the timeliness of the implementation of such recommendations.

THE AUSTRALIAN MARINE OIL SPILL CENTRE (AMOSC) TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In June 2002, AMOSC celebrated 10 years of operation. Guest of honour at the celebration lunch at the Geelong base was the Honourable Dr Sharman Stone, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

AMOSC was set up following a review by the Australian Institute of Petroleum of preparedness of the Australian oil industry for a major oil spill. A nine million dollar stockpile of response equipment was set up and an office and training centre built at Corio Quay, Geelong.

AMOSC has been mobilised 15 times during the past decade. In addition 200 training programs have been run at the Centre and throughout Australia and the Pacific Region, delivering skills to more than 3,300 participants.