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Competent Authority update

There are now 15 VTSs operated by six Vessel Traffic Service Authorities appointed by AMSA under Marine Order 64 (Vessel Traffic Services) from 10 centres:

VTS Authority	Centre	VTS
Victorian Ports Corporation (Melbourne)	Melbourne	Melbourne
Pilbara Ports Authority – Dampier	Dampier	Dampier
		Ashburton
Pilbara Ports Authority – Port Hedland	Port Hedland	Port Hedland
Maritime Safety Queensland	Brisbane	Brisbane
	Gladstone	Gladstone
	Hay Point	Hay Point
		Mackay
	Townsville	Townsville
		Abbot Point
REEFVTS		
Cairns	Cairns	
	Weipa	
Fremantle Ports	Fremantle	Fremantle
Port Authority of NSW	Sydney	Sydney

Communication with stakeholders suggests further applications will be received in 2018.

To ensure a nationally consistent approach to VTS and meet Australia’s international obligations, two key policy documents have been released:

(a) Compliance and Enforcement Framework:
This sets out arrangements for:

- Compliance with Australia’s new international obligations under the SOLAS Convention.
- Dealing with violations of VTS regulatory requirements, in accordance with Commonwealth law and the AMSA Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

(b) Qualifications and training requirements for VTS Operators (VTSOs): This provides guidance on the qualifications and training requirements for a person to carry out the duties of a VTSO.

Further information on VTS can be found on our website at:

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigating-coastal-waters>

IALA update

VTS Committee (September 2017)

The 44th IALA VTS Committee meeting was held 25–29 September 2017 at IALA Headquarters in Paris, France.

This was the final session for the 2014–18 work program and was extremely productive. Key outcomes include:

1) **New recommendations and guidelines**

Three new recommendations and three new Guidelines were completed and forwarded to Council for approval. The VTS Working Group, through AMSA, have made significant contributions to each of these documents and the

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input is appropriately reflected in each. These include

- **Recommendation on auditing and assessing VTS**

The document recommends that National members and Competent Authorities for Vessel Traffic Services implement a formal system for auditing and assessing VTS as a means to ensure the harmonised delivery of VTS worldwide.

It is a normative provision and must be observed to claim compliance with IALA Standard 1040 Vessel Traffic Services.

- **Recommendation on VTS communications**

The document recommends that competent authorities and VTS authorities communicate with traffic in a harmonised manner through standardised procedures and technology for the delivery of precise and unambiguous communications as described in associated IALA guidelines.

It is a normative provision and must be observed to claim compliance with IALA Standard 1040 Vessel Traffic Services.

- **Recommendation on portrayal of VTS information and data**

The recommendation specifies what practices shall be carried out with regards to the portrayal of VTS information and data.

It is a normative provision and must be observed to claim compliance with IALA standard 1040 Vessel Traffic Services.

- **Guideline for setting and measuring VTS objectives**

This document provides guidance for competent authorities and VTS authorities for setting objectives for a VTS and achieving them. In particular, the guidance focuses on providing assistance to:

- Meet their obligations in accordance with Regulation 12 of Chapter V of SOLAS (Vessel traffic services) and IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services with regards to ensuring that objectives for a VTS are set and that these objectives are met.
- Respond to the IMO Resolution A.1067(28) Framework and Procedures for the IMO

Member State Audit Scheme with regards to how they implement and enforce SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12. In particular, to ensure measures are in place to evaluate the effectiveness in implementing SOLAS regulation V/12 and the effectiveness of VTS.

- **Guideline on VTS VHF voice communication**

The guideline describes how to implement the recommendation on VTS communications above. In particular it provides guidance for competent authorities, VTS authorities and training organisations in developing standardised operating procedures for voice communications and achieve best practice in effective VTS radio voice communications.

- **Guideline on VTS information exchange with allied or other services**

This guideline describes, from a technical point of view, the issues to be considered and the principles to be applied for interaction between VTS and allied or other services.

2) Work program 2018–2022

The draft work program for the VTS Committee (2018–2022) was completed and forwarded to council for approval.

The proposed tasks are wide ranging and related to the obligations of contracting governments for planning and implementing VTS under SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 12 (Vessel Traffic Services).

3) IALA Standard 1040 (Vessel Traffic Services)

Of particular significance during the meeting was the recognition by participants of the benefits of the new document structure (standards, recommendations and guidelines) including the use of normative and informative provisions and the links between recommendations and guidelines. It is expected that these benefits will be further realised during the 2018–2022 work program as many key guidance documents are transitioned to the new structure.

IALA 2018 calendar

Key VTS related events on the IALA calendar for 2018 include:

Event	Date / Location
VTS Operations Working Group inter- sessional meeting	10–13 April 2018 IALA Headquarters
19th IALA Conference	27 May to 2 June 2018 Incheon, Republic of Korea
VTS Committee	17–21 September 2018 IALA Headquarters

Further information on IALA events during 2018 can be found at:

<http://www.iala-aism.org/product-category/calendar/>

Port Hedland—new Integrated Marine Operations Centre

The following information regarding the construction of a new Integrated Marine Operations Centre (IMOC) was provided by Pilbara Ports Authority – Port Hedland.

Construction of a new Integrated Marine Operations Centre (IMOC), featuring best-practice Vessel Traffic Services systems, is well underway at Pilbara Ports Authority's Port of Port Hedland—the world's largest bulk export port—located in the mineral-rich Pilbara region of Western Australia.

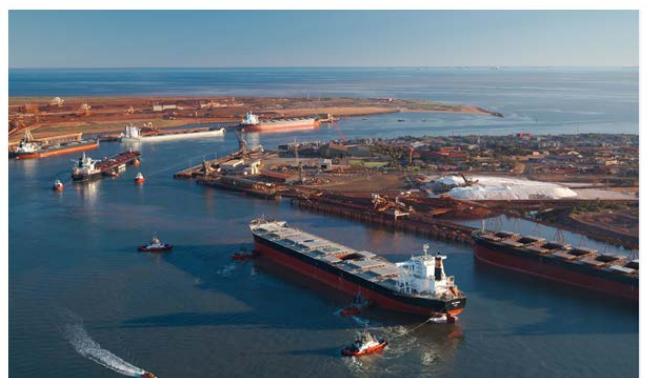
The new state-of-the-art facility will facilitate the safe and efficient passage of approximately 6000 vessel movements of mostly bulk carriers each year, and prepare the port to accommodate an ultimate vessel movement demand of more than 7500. The Port of Port Hedland is responsible for approximately 30 per cent of the world's global iron ore exports.

The IMOC will house the Port Hedland VTS and associated equipment and will oversee all marine operations within the VTS area including the inner harbour, the 22 nautical miles shipping channel and offshore anchorage.

The facility will also house the port's dredging management, port security, Maritime Security Identification Card office, marine pilot facilities and a dedicated Incident Control Centre.



Concept design of the new IMOC, Port Hedland



Port Hedland Inner Harbour

The IMOC will replace the existing and outdated Shipping Control Tower, which was built more than 45 years ago and at a time when less than 500 ships visited the port each year. The current tower is no longer suitable for the growing operations at Port of Port Hedland, which saw a

record 500.9 million tonnes of throughput in the 2016–17 financial year.



Images of current Shipping Tower in Port Hedland

Pilbara Ports, Port Hedland was authorised as the VTS Authority for Port Hedland VTS on 8 July 2015, to operate and provide an Information Service (INS) and a Traffic Organisation Service (TOS) in line with the requirements of Marine Order 64.

You can watch the first few months of the IMOC's construction here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3s7ZXbCQSQ>

For more information, visit:

www.pilbaraports.com.au

VTS Working Group

The 21st meeting of the Australian VTS Working Group was hosted by Victorian Ports Corporation (Melbourne) on 17–18 October 2017. Key outcomes from the meeting included:

- A review of the status of the VTS information exchange project and the proposed 'proof of concept' trial scheduled to commence in April/May 2018,
- A review of the outcomes from the IALA VTS Committee meeting in September 2017, including the status of guidance documents mentioned above,
- A review of the proposed 2018–2022 work program for the IALA VTS Committee.
- A successful workshop on navigational assistance was conducted. The outcomes will be considered during proposed intersessional work on the functional requirements for VTS Authorities for V-103 training.

The next meeting will be hosted by Maritime Safety Queensland in March 2018. Further details will be provided in the near future.