



Australian Government

AUSTRALIA

Navigating tomorrow's seas with Australia

Candidate for the
IMO Council–Category B
2028-2029 biennium





Australia is reliable and collaborative, helping shape the future of global maritime governance

As a dedicated and collaborative member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Australia leads efforts to strengthen the IMO's effectiveness, resilience and transparency.

Together, we can steer the IMO through the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow to improve safety, boost efficiency and support more sustainable shipping practices.

Australia's active engagement and contribution to the IMO Council reflects our longstanding commitment to effective, inclusive and forward-looking global maritime governance.

We champion the interests of our region, advocating for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and other coastal and port States to ensure their perspectives help shape the future of global maritime decision making.

Australia is committed to a safe, efficient and sustainable future for international seaborne trade

As an island nation, Australia understands the vital role shipping plays in connecting economies, supporting prosperity and facilitating global trade. With 99 per cent of our trade carried by sea, we have a deep and enduring commitment to a safe, resilient and efficient maritime sector.

Australia upholds the highest standards of maritime safety, seafarer welfare and environmental protection through a world-class regulatory framework and robust port State control regime.

Australia works with international partners to advance digital maritime services, enabling ships to access trusted navigational and safety information in more efficient and user-friendly ways.



Australia brings experience, leadership and value to the IMO Council

Australia brings a proven record of consensus-building and fostering cooperation with the IMO and Member States to advance safe, secure, efficient and well-regulated global shipping.

As a serving Council member, Australia leads efforts that strengthen the IMO's transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness. Australia recognises and supports the benefits that diversity and women in maritime can bring to shipping.

Australia is home to the world's largest bulk export port and is one of the world's leading exporters of commodities and agricultural products, giving us a strong stake in a safe, efficient and sustainable global maritime system.

As one of the world's leading exporters, Australia is committed to improving cargo safety standards, protecting seafarers, safeguarding the marine environment and supporting the efficient movement of global trade.





Australia is a trusted partner and a strong advocate for developing maritime nations

We work to ensure the interests of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States are heard and considered in global maritime decision making.

We support maritime capability development of the Pacific by funding a Senior Professional Officer to assist with the establishment and early program delivery of the IMO Regional Presence Office for the Pacific.

We are a strong advocate for inclusive and effective maritime governance, supporting standards that reflect the diverse priorities and needs of IMO Member States.

Australia invests in maritime excellence, with our world-class training, education and research facilities contributing to global maritime innovation, capability and leadership.

We develop the next generation of maritime professionals through our domestic and international scholarships, including initiatives that encourage women to enter and progress their careers in the maritime industry.

Why Australia matters at the IMO



2,768 foreign-flagged ships inspected through port State control in 2025



30,000+ international ship visits each year



1.5 billion tonnes of cargo exported each year



5,972 search and rescue incidents responded to in 2025, with 187 lives saved



World-class maritime training and research institutions



60,000 kilometres of coastline across one of the world's largest island nations

99% of Australia's trade moves by sea

More than 10% of the Earth's surface is covered by our search and rescue region



Advancing women in maritime through domestic, regional and international initiatives

A multicultural nation bringing diverse perspectives to international maritime governance

Australia: delivering practical leadership and trusted expertise at the IMO for more than 50 years.

