



Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990

*Statement of Expectations for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority from
1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028*

I, Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, make the following instrument.

Dated: 20 June 2026

Catherine King

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

1. Overview

This instrument is the *Statement of Expectations (SoE) for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028*.

This SoE applies from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028 and replaces the preceding SoE issued on 30 September 2024.

This SoE serves as a notice to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) under section 9A of the *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990* (the AMSA Act), advising AMSA of my views in relation to its appropriate strategic direction and the manner in which it should perform its functions.

2. Governance

I expect the Board of AMSA (the Board) to continue to enable and enhance the effective operation of AMSA as Australia's maritime safety regulator, emergency response coordinator, and protector of the marine environment from pollution and environmental damage from ships.

I expect the Board to be responsible for AMSA's obligations under the Act.

I expect the Board to facilitate effective interaction between AMSA and all stakeholders.

I expect the Board to govern in a way that promotes the ongoing financial sustainability of AMSA.

I expect the Board to be transparent in carrying out its functions, for example by publishing on the AMSA website a communicate of matters discussed at each Board meeting.

I expect the CEO of AMSA to be responsible for managing AMSA's operations and the performance of its statutory functions, including developing and implementing effective and efficient regulatory, operational, financial, personnel and administrative activities.

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I expect AMSA to keep me and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) fully informed of its activities, and to promptly advise of any events or issues that may materially impact on its operations or on my other portfolio responsibilities, including through keeping me apprised on adherence to its Corporate Plan and compliance with this SoE.

I expect AMSA to include in its Corporate Plan and Annual Report a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and service standards for its regulatory activities. I also expect AMSA to publish in both the Corporate Plan and the Annual Report a separate table or statement that summarises KPIs and outcomes for the most important reform initiatives that enhance productivity.

I expect the Board to undertake a regular assessment of its own skills and capabilities and to advise me and the department of any gaps or enhancements required, as well as on forthcoming Board vacancies.

I expect the Board to manage both perceived and actual conflicts of interest, and to publish its procedures for the management of conflicts of interest on its website.

I expect AMSA to perform its functions consistent with Australia's international obligations, including those connected with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

3. Strategic direction and manner of performance

I expect that AMSA will continue to be a world-leading maritime safety regulator, further strengthen its capability as a risk-based regulator and enhance its critical role in responding to maritime emergencies and coordinating search and rescue.

I expect AMSA to perform its functions in accordance with:

- a) the AMSA Act.
- b) the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- c) the *Navigation Act 2012*.
- d) the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012*.
- e) any other legislation for which AMSA has responsibility, for instance the various *Protection of the Sea Acts*.
- f) all other applicable legislation.

I expect AMSA's resources to be used in a proper manner, following best practice principles and guidelines.

I expect that the conduct and values of AMSA's Board and staff will be consistent with those of the Australian Public Service.

I expect AMSA to keep me informed about its public submissions, media releases, major speeches and other details for which the Government is accountable to the Parliament and the community. I further expect AMSA to cooperate with Parliamentary Committees and other Commonwealth public accountability mechanisms.

I expect AMSA to have a publicly available document setting out its regulatory philosophy, and to implement its regulatory approach in accordance with that philosophy.

I expect AMSA to provide me with a forward annual regulatory program for matters within its remit by 30 September each year, including a report on how industry and stakeholder views have been considered.

4. Key initiatives

I expect AMSA to:

- (a) develop and maintain capability to effectively and efficiently regulate a changing maritime industry. These initiatives should particularly focus on improving productivity, for example continuing investment in online service offerings that deliver benefits to industry and seafarers.
- (b) support innovation and the adoption of new and emerging technologies in maritime sectors, particularly where these innovations offer improved safety, environmental, operational or administrative outcomes. These include but are not limited to; digital shipping communications, Marine Autonomous Surface Ships, and low or zero carbon fuel technology.
- (c) continue to develop and implement a sophisticated risk framework to underpin consistent regulatory compliance and operational decisions and create a regulatory environment that enables growth.
- (d) assist in the refining and possibly reworking regulatory risk settings and cost and charging models with a view to implementing efficient and effective cost recovery for regulatory services. AMSA should endeavour to ensure its ongoing financial viability, while minimising the maritime industry's regulatory costs.
- (e) assist the department to work with Australian stakeholders and international partners to develop and implement standards and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from maritime activities. This work should also balance the disruption of new technologies and industries with AMSA's function of combating pollution in the marine environment and operating impacts.
- (f) assist the department to work with stakeholders towards resolving issues with the jurisdictional interface between the *Navigation Act 2012* and the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*. This includes developing and maintaining close collaboration with the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) to support stakeholders to comply with both regulatory frameworks.
- (g) work closely and collaboratively with the department and Government more broadly to assist with implementation of the recommendations of recent reviews, including:
 - i. the Independent Review of Domestic Commercial Vessel Safety Legislation and Costs and Charging Arrangements (DCV Review), particularly in relation to its recommendations for a more risk-based regulatory framework.
 - ii. the Australian Transport Safety and Investigation Bodies Financial Sustainability Review.
 - iii. the *Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012* and the *Shipping Registration Act 1981* reviews.
- (h) work with the department where AMSA has relevant expertise to assist in establishing a strategic fleet and ensuring Australia's regulatory regime is efficient and helps to reinvigorate Australian shipping
- (i) work with the department, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Defence to assist in enhancing training and certification to enable the growth of Australia's Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping qualified maritime workforce.
- (j) work with the department and the Department of Finance where appropriate, to implement and report on any other reform proposals to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden that may require legislative reform or have funding implications.

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- (k) ensure Australia's maritime incident response capability remains appropriate to enable AMSA to perform its statutory functions, and work with the department to ensure that the underlying policies remain fit for purpose.
- (l) progress strategic priorities to enhance AMSA's operational effectiveness and service delivery, including implementation of an integrated Incident Management System to support timely, coordinated and data-informed incident response. AMSA should engage the department on associated resourcing requirements where necessary.
- (m) provide and coordinate high quality search and rescue services and emergency response operations under National search and rescue arrangements and the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies, working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure there is a process of continual improvement.
- (n) ensure that it has the people, tools, techniques and culture to derive value from data, improve services and make informed risk-based decisions.
- (o) work with relevant departments and agencies to implement relevant actions arising from IMO Member State Audit Scheme audits and findings.
- (p) continue engagement at international forums, including with the IMO, consistent with Australia's international obligations and to support Australia's broader diplomatic interests in these forums in collaboration with the department and across government. In relation to the IMO, AMSA should:
 - i. work with the department to develop and maintain a strategic engagement strategy that identifies Australia's key objectives and priorities.
 - ii. leverage its technical expertise to advance technical maritime safety and pollution prevention at the IMO and provide constructive input to international maritime regulation and related issues.
 - iii. collaborate with industry and government stakeholders to support informed engagement.
 - iv. wherever possible, build further internal capability to support ongoing engagement with the IMO and its operations within the United Nations system into the future.

5. Stakeholder Engagement

I expect AMSA to:

- (a) engage clearly, transparently and regularly with stakeholders regarding AMSA's activities and functions, including regulatory development.
- (b) engage effectively with Government and each of the various sectors which comprise the Australian and international maritime community, including training and industry bodies.
- (c) work closely and collaboratively with the department and other agencies to deliver integrated and comprehensive advice to Government, the maritime industry and the community, including:
 - i. the Australian Transport Safety Bureau and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
 - ii. the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Defence.
 - iii. Commonwealth border agencies.
 - iv. Commonwealth industry and environmental agencies.
 - v. state/territory governments and agencies.
 - vi. others as necessary.
- (d) engage in relevant consultation processes run by other government agencies or industry bodies.

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- (e) maintain high standards of consultation and regulatory impact analysis in the development of regulatory instruments. This includes the provision of exposure drafts of instruments for industry and stakeholder consultation before instruments are finalised, unless the matter is urgent, and/or any delay would impact on maritime safety or the marine environment.
- (f) Improve the stakeholder interaction experience through updates to its consultation framework and implementation of user-centred, digital first processes for engaging with the maritime community. This should include improving online access to services such as applications for maritime certifications, registration and qualifications.

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