



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



MLAANZ's Membership of AMSA's Shipping Consultative Forum

In late 2020 the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) instituted a Shipping Consultative Forum as an initiative to help address some of the strategic goals facing the maritime industry. MLAANZ was delighted to be invited to become a member and president David Goodwin has participated in the first two forum meetings held in October 2020 and May 2021.



Other participants in the forum include the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Australian Maritime College, the Australian Shipbuilding & Repair Group, Cruise Lines International Association Australasia, Maritime Industry Australia, the Maritime Union of Australia, the Minerals Council of Australia, Ports Australia, the Royal Australian Navy, Shipping Australia Limited, the Tourism & Transport Forum and the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA).

See <https://www.amsa.gov.au/our-committees/shipping-consultative-forum/members>.

Our membership of this group offers an opportunity to be informed about AMSA's current priorities and strategic challenges.

It may be useful for MLAANZ members to appreciate the kind of subject matter being covered at these forum meetings, which are held twice per year.

At the inaugural meeting in October 2021, AMSA outlined its key priorities and strategic challenges and current international engagement, and shared insights relating to IMO's Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

Aspects discussed during the May 2021 Forum meeting included:

- the pressures being placed on the maritime sector by COVID-19
- the escalating need to address maritime skill shortages, including in technical trades and for the Navy
- release of the Productivity Commission Interim Report on Vulnerable Supply Chains
- a paper presented by the Maritime Union of Australia calling for reforms to maritime safety law, titled "Stopping the race to the bottom on maritime safety in Australia"
- responses to consultation on the Coastal Trading Act amendments are being reviewed, with a proposal to extend the current Special Recreation Vessel Temporary Licence and Coastal Trading Operation License legislation by two years to be considered by the House of Representatives at its next sitting
- the cruise ship ban expiring on June 17, 2021 – consultations with the cruise industry and commonwealth and state agencies were continuing
- a paper was tabled by the Australian Maritime College on the implications of the use of ammonia and hydrogen as marine fuels

- AMSA tabled a paper on changes in electronic navigation highlighting a new standard for electronic charts on the horizon
- calls for action on addressing diversity in the maritime industry are being led by WISTA

Members of the forum have also had the opportunity to report to AMSA on their perspectives on significant Government priorities such as:

- the proposed international instrument on the judicial sale of vessels
- development of the “single maritime window” concept
- proposals for Breaking Limitation under the IMO Liability conventions
- the Government’s proposed accession to the Nairobi Wreck Convention

Should any MLAANZ member have concerns about, or perspectives on, an issue within AMSA’s remit that they would like to see drawn to the attention of the Shipping Consultative Forum and its members, please feel free to reach out to President David Goodwin at David.Goodwin@vu.edu.au.

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