## AMSA Takes No-Nonsense Approach

A vessel owner has been successfully prosecuted after exhibiting "aggressive" behaviour and unleashing a threatening "expletive-laden tirade" during an Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) inspection.

Anthony Roy Wolfe had been intending to use the former Navy tug, Wallaroo, to transport shipping containers from Cairns to Papua New Guinea under a commercial arrangement, according to AMSA.

However, during a recent inspection of the Wallaroo in Brisbane, "serious deficiencies with watertight hatches, defunct firefighting equipment and no life raft on the vessel" were discovered.

"In the interest of the safety of the people working onboard the boat – including Mr Wolfe – and to protect the marine environment from a potential incident, Wallaroo was detained under the Navigation Act for unseaworthiness," stated AMSA.

"During the inspection, Mr Wolfe became aggressive and engaged in an expletive-laden tirade forcing the inspector off the vessel."

In October the Cairns Magistrate Court duly found Mr Wolf guilty of hindering a Commonwealth public official – the conviction to be recorded on his criminal record for the next ten years – and fined him A$750.

AMSA operations general manager Allan Schwartz said his agency would not tolerate violence or threats of violence being made against staff, nor behaviour that hindered staff in undertaking their important duties.

"Our inspectors work every day to make the seas a safer place to work and to protect Australia's precious marine environments from the impacts of shipping and unseaworthy vessels like Wallaroo," stated Mr Schwartz.

"Our inspectors serve the Australian community, in particular the coastal towns and tourism hubs like Cairns which depend on the sea for their livelihoods.

"Mr Wolfe's criminal conviction should serve as a reminder that the Australian community and AMSA will not tolerate this kind of vile behaviour."

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