



# Australian Maritime Digest

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1 September 2013

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## Contents

<b>Editorial.....</b>	<b>4</b>
The election campaign and maritime matters .....	4
Ports and the Environment Seminar – 14.00-17.15 Tuesday 8 October at Darling Harbour .....	4
Sea Power Conference 2013 – 7-9 October at Darling Harbour .....	4
Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition – 7-9 October 2013 .....	4
AAMA Annual General Meeting – Monday 21 October 2013 at 17.30 .....	4
Have your say – send a Letter to the Editor .....	4
 <b>Maritime Defence, Customs &amp; Border Protection.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Vice Adm. Robert Thomas USN takes command of the US 7th Fleet .....	5
Defence support to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Papua New Guinea .....	5
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Capability Review .....	5
Hammerhead Crane to go from Garden Island .....	5
Work begins on Landing Helicopter Dock ship and Air Warfare Destroyer support facilities projects .....	5
India unveils home-built aircraft carrier and activates nuclear reactor for submarine .....	6
Top USN admiral expects more deferred maintenance .....	6
Strategic Insights 63 - Getting there—a status update for the 2000 Defence white paper .....	6
Indian naval disaster sparks debate on ports' safety .....	6
Successful Torpedo Firing .....	6
International Fleet Review, Sydney - .....	6
US Navy rejects California's request for whale protections .....	6
Coalition Regional Deterrence Framework policy to combat people smuggling .....	6
HMAS Melbourne sails for Middle East mission .....	6
ALP Policy - Future Navy Taskforce .....	6
India's first military satellite will help keep tabs on Indian Ocean region .....	6
Navy concludes exercise in the North West Shelf area .....	7
ALP Policy - Delivering Defence Capability through a Sustainable Domestic Shipbuilding Industry .....	7
Australian-designed Phased Array Radar and Combat Management System upgrades .....	7
China Seas Developments – August .....	7
Border Protection Command Interceptions and/or Assistance – August .....	8
 <b>Shipping, Shipbuilding &amp; Ports.....</b>	<b>10</b>
AMSA awards new emergency towage contracts .....	10
AMSA responds to Kaniwa sinking in June 2012 .....	10
Draft regulations for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters .....	10
Shipping management plan for Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Coral Sea .....	10
New Colombo port opens .....	10
Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved .....	10
Admiralty Amendment Rules 2013 .....	10
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Capability Review .....	10
Fiji shipping services to improve .....	10
ACCC consents to CBH wheat port undertaking variations .....	10
Marine Order 64 (Vessel traffic services) 2013 .....	10
Strengthening Australia's search and rescue service .....	10
Recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events – Senate Committee Report .....	11
Tender process to replace the Aurora Australis .....	11
Deferral of decision on dredging application at Abbot Point in Queensland .....	11
Ports of Auckland welcomes two new services .....	11
Chinese ship makes first journey on Northeast Passage route to Europe .....	11
Coalition Infrastructure Policy .....	11
Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan .....	11
ACCC draft decision on Emerald wheat port access undertaking .....	11
Coalition electoral policy for Tasmanian shipping and Antarctic research .....	11
Cape Hardy port in South Australia granted major development status .....	12
Indian Government to develop 8 airports, 2 sea-ports .....	12
Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction .....	12
NOPEMA must take strong action against use of potentially toxic dispersant chemicals .....	12
Marine Order 11 (Living and working conditions on vessels) Amendment 2013 (No. 1) .....	12
India to accede to ILO's Maritime Labour Convention .....	12
ILO Maritime Labour Convention in force in Australia .....	12
Tax proposal threatens Canadian ports .....	12
Union stages industrial action as shipping route to northern WA towns cancelled .....	12
Advanced Marina Management Scholarship Winner Announced .....	12
Freedom Flotilla warned .....	13
Upgrade of ports and shipping services to Vanuatu's remote islands .....	13
Cleaner shipping rules to hit fuel oil market .....	13
Rod Nairn confirmed as CEO, Shipping Australia Limited .....	13
ATSB report - Drift towards danger of the bulk carrier ID Integrity, Coral Sea, 18 to 23 May 2012 .....	13
Queensland ports load a record 16.3 mil mt coal in July .....	13

Ports Australia Releases "Leading Practice – Port Master Planning"	13
There are shipping problems, and there are real shipping problems!	13
Australian Marina Industry Survey	13
Unsafe marine work practices targeted in ATSB video	13
Opposition to Fitzroy Terminal coal export project at Keppel Bay QLD	13
Fiji Government Shipping Services to be transferred back to ministry	13
Ports shore-to-ship power systems demonstration	13
World Shipping Outlook – August	14
UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – August developments	14
Shipping Corp of India Expects Iran to Release Tanker Soon	14

## **Fisheries..... 14**

Recovery plan for the White Shark (Carcharodon carcharias)	14
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery research program	14
Western Australia Pearl Oyster Fishery - Agency application	14
High Court decision - Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim	14
Fisheries Management (International Agreements) Amendment Regulation 2013 (No. 1)	15
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2013	15
EU announces deductions from 2013 fishing quotas	15
Pacific Island countries – sustainable tuna fishing	15
Fish With No Protections of Any Kind	15
Fisheries Management (Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002) Temporary Order 2013 No. 1	15
Illegal Fishing, Your Number's Up!	15
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 1 2013	15
New Bluefin Tuna rules proposed for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	15
Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Application	15
Coalition Fisheries Policy	15
Fishing industry wants answers from Labor Party	16

## **Resource Exploration & Development ..... 16**

Development of Browse gas resources	16
Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved	16
Excessive wages threaten Australia's offshore oil and gas industry - Deloitte report	16
Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction	16
Perth Will Be Home to Global Oil and Gas Innovation – ALP Policy	16
NOPSEMA must take strong action against use of potentially toxic dispersant chemicals	16
Safety in the offshore drilling industry	16

## **Marine Science & Environment..... 16**

SeaSim, the National Sea Simulator, opened at AIMS in Townsville	16
Draft regulations for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters	16
Climate 'causing huge ocean changes'	17
Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved	17
Recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events – Senate Committee Report	17
Tender process to replace the Aurora Australis	17
Deferral of decision on dredging application at Abbot Point in Queensland	17
Fish With No Protections of Any Kind	17
Coalition electoral policy for Tasmanian shipping and Antarctic research	17
Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction	17
Reef heritage discovered and commemorated	17
US Navy rejects California's request for whale protections	17
Cleaner shipping rules to hit fuel oil market	17
Rising ocean acidity will exacerbate global warming	18
Coalition Fisheries Policy	18
ALP Announces \$137 Million for Critical Support of Great Barrier Reef	18
Fishing industry wants answers from Labor Party	18
Coalition announces 20 Year Strategic Plan for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research	18
EU to be represented at the annual Pacific Islands Forum meeting	18

## **Letters to the Editor..... 18**

## **Conferences & seminars..... 18**

4 September 2013 - DAFF Role in Border Control – dinner and talk – Newcastle, NSW	18
4-5 September 2013 - 4th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response Seminar – London, UK	18
9-13 September 2013 - London International Shipping Week – London, UK	19
11 September 2013 - Entry into Enclosed Spaces: a day of Education, Awareness and Training – London, UK	19
11-13 September 2013 - Coasts & Ports 2013 conference – Manly, Sydney	19
23-25 September 2013 - The Annual World Congress of Ocean-2013, Hangzhou, China	19
22-27 September 2013 - Advanced Marina Management Course – Sydney	19
30 September – 4 October 2013 – International Symposium for Next Generation Infrastructure – Wollongong	19
7-9 October 2013 – Pacific 2013 International Maritime Conference (IMC) – Darling Harbour, Sydney	19
8 October 2013 - Ports and the Environment Seminar (part of Pacific 2013) - at Darling Harbour, Sydney	19
12-15 November 2013 - 2013 NSW Coastal Conference – Port Macquarie, NSW	19
16-17 October 2013 - 9th Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg, Germany	19
23-24 October 2013 - Life Extension & Integrity of Offshore Structures – Amsterdam, The Netherlands	19
23-24 October 2013 - 8th Southern Asia Ports, Logistics and Shipping Conference – Mumbai, India	19
13-14 November 2013 - 4 Elements of Effective Corrosion Management Seminar – Amsterdam, The Netherlands	19

## Australian Maritime Digest

1 September 2013

20-21 November 2013 – ACI's 7th Optimising Fuel Management & Operational Efficiency conference – Singapore .....	19
4-5 December 2013 – Optimising Port Development – London .....	19
29-30 January 2014 - 8th Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Summit – London .....	20
27-28 February 2014 - 6th Intermodal Asia 2014 Australia Exhibition and Conference – Melbourne .....	20
5-6 March 2014 4th FPSO Vessel Conference – London .....	20
19-20 March 2014 – Australian Logistics Council Forum 2014 – Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney .....	20
7-11 April 2014 – XXII International Maritime Pilots' Association Congress – Panama .....	20
7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide .....	20
7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra .....	20
2014 (date tba) - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide .....	20

## Membership/Subscriptions

21

## EDITORIAL

**Australian Association for Maritime Affairs**

**The objectives of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs are to generate greater public awareness of maritime affairs, and to encourage well-informed decision making on maritime issues.**

[www.aama.asn.au](http://www.aama.asn.au)

**The election campaign and maritime matters**

The election campaign kicked off with the usual administrative chaos as ministers and their departments attempted to come to grips with the “caretaker convention”, and coordination between ministers making announcements from the hustings and Party website management proved sometimes “tenuous”. Readers will see mention of examples in some articles below.

In some cases, decisions that were made by Cabinet prior to prorogation and which, therefore, were properly “Government policy”, were not announced until some days later on the hustings, and so posted to neither the Minister's nor the ALP's website.

In general, perhaps as might be expected in a vacuous and superficial political environment, rational maritime policy matters have attracted little electoral attention.

**Ports and the Environment Seminar – 14.00-17.15 Tuesday 8 October at Darling Harbour**

As the election campaign noise dies away, and we start to turn our minds to the consequences of its outcome, it's worth remembering that the seminar on [Ports and the Environment](#) to be held as part of the Pacific 2013 conferences may help participants to make some sense of some of the things that will need to be done. The deferral until after the election of a decision on the Abbott Point dredging proposal is an obvious issue to be considered and we are lucky to have Dr Craig Styan as one of our speakers.

The seminar will start to address a key factor shaping the development and growth of our major ports: environmental issues and the regulatory framework that impacts on port operators, the shipping industry and their stakeholders in the export and logistics sectors. The regulation of ports seems to be “unduly complex” (an inchoate mess?) requiring action at the political level, both State and Commonwealth, if the costs to Australia's imports and exports are to be contained.

Admission to the Seminar is free to registered trade visitors to Pacific 2013, but seminar attendees are asked to pre-register beforehand to be assured of a seat. Send an [e-mail](#) to secure your seat, and [pre-register](#) with Pacific 2013 for a Trade Visitor's badge. That will speed up your arrival at the Pacific 2013 conference registration and mean that you can wander the exhibitions if you arrive at Darling Harbour early.

**Sea Power Conference 2013 – 7-9 October at Darling Harbour**

To register for the associated Sea Power Conference, taking place on all three days of Pacific 2013, with its theme of “Naval Diplomacy and Maritime Power Projection: The Utility of Navies in the Maritime Century”, click [here](#).

**Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition – 7-9 October 2013**

For details of all aspects of the comprehensive Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition, click [here](#)

**AAMA Annual General Meeting – Monday 21 October 2013 at 17.30**

All members of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs [That's you, Dear Subscriber!] are invited to note that the AAMA's 2013 AGM will be held at 17.30 on Monday 21 October [That's Trafalgar Day for naval readers.]. It is currently planned to hold the AGM in the main conference room of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's building at 82 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra. To park and to gain access to the facility, Members should muster at the rear door of the building, off Mort Street, Braddon, at about 17.15.

The formal papers for the AGM, and confirmation of the venue, will be e-mailed to AAMA Members in due course.

**Have your say – send a Letter to the Editor**

If you and/or your colleagues have a view on any maritime topic, please send a short Letter to the Editor – [news@aama.asn.au](mailto:news@aama.asn.au) - and attach any detailed reasoning so we can assess whether we can publish your supporting material on the AAMA website, with a link from your Letter to the Editor.

**DISCLAIMER**

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### MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

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#### Vice Adm. Robert Thomas USN takes command of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “Vice Adm. Robert Thomas Jr. took the helm of the Japan-based U.S. 7th Fleet on Wednesday [31 July] during a ceremony aboard the USS *Blue Ridge* in Cairns, Australia.”

#### Defence support to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Papua New Guinea

The Department of Defence [said](#) “HMAS *Choules* is [1 Aug] en route to Manus Island as part of an Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint Task Force providing assistance to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to increase the capacity of the facilities on Manus Island. The Navy Landing Ship Dock departed Cairns on 30 July to provide a maritime-based support capability which will include afloat accommodation for Defence personnel, Australian Government and service provider staff, logistic support and a ship to shore transport capability.”

#### Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Capability Review

The Public Service Commission released the [report](#) of its capability review of the Australian Customs Service. It found weaknesses in the ACBPS's: leadership, workforce training, business model and IT systems.

#### Hammerhead Crane to go from Garden Island

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney [said](#) the Hammerhead Crane will be removed from the Garden Island Naval Base in Sydney. The conditions of approval require the heritage value components of the crane to be identified and salvaged. An archival record will be made of the crane and its history will be documented in a Heritage Interpretation Plan.

#### Work begins on Landing Helicopter Dock ship and Air Warfare Destroyer support facilities projects

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney [said](#) the construction of facilities for the new Landing Helicopter Dock ships and Air Warfare Destroyers has commenced in Sydney. The investment of \$170.2 million into facilities at HMAS Watson, Garden Island and Randwick Barracks—with the first of the major works commencing at HMAS Watson—will provide berthing infrastructure, permanent maintenance and systems support facilities for the new ships at Garden Island, and training facilities at Randwick Barracks and HMAS Watson.



## India unveils home-built aircraft carrier and activates nuclear reactor for submarine

Meanwhile, *Stars and Stripes* [quoted](#) AP that “India has launched its first home-built aircraft carrier, marking another milestone in its efforts to bolster its maritime presence.” and “On Saturday [10 Aug], India activated an atomic reactor for its indigenously built nuclear submarine.”

*The Hindu* [published](#) a fairly extensive analysis of Chinese reactions.

## Top USN admiral expects more deferred maintenance

A *Stars and Stripes* [article](#) on future US Navy capability in an era of budget cuts has sobering implications for Australian defence policy. For example: “Greenert said the Navy has lost its ability to deploy multiple aircraft carrier strike groups at short notice because of the cuts. In the past, the Navy had three aircraft carrier strike groups and three amphibious ready groups available to respond within seven days. Now it only has one of each, he said.”

## Strategic Insights 63 - Getting there—a status update for the 2000 Defence white paper

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) released this [analysis](#), which reviews the 31 major capability announcements made in the 2000 Defence White Paper and suggests it's probably a good time for the incoming Defence Minister to look back at the lessons of D2000's force structure plans before moving forward. [One lesson should be that, historically, more damage has been done to Australian defence preparedness by releasing (and then relying on) unachievably over-ambitious plans for ADF capabilities than is done by actual defence cuts – Editor]

## Indian naval disaster sparks debate on ports' safety

The Indian *Business Standard* [reported](#) “The naval tragedy in Mumbai leading to the loss of submarine INS *Sindhurakshak* which sank with 18 sailors has brought the aspect of safety and disaster management in Indian ports to the fore, maritime experts said here Wednesday [14 Aug].”

## Successful Torpedo Firing

The Royal Australian Navy has successfully conducted the world's first firing of a “war shot” MU90 Lightweight Torpedo, Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN [announced](#).

## International Fleet Review, Sydney -

The Royal Australian Navy [announced](#) that an International Fleet Review will be held in Sydney from 3 to 11 October 2013 to commemorate the centenary of the first entry of the new Royal Australian Navy's Fleet into Sydney Harbour on 4 October 1913. It is expected that over 40 warships and 17 tall ships, representing 20 nations, will be berthed alongside Garden Island, Barangaroo, Darling Harbour and HMAS Waterhen near Waverton for the nine day event.

## US Navy rejects California's request for whale protections

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “The U.S. Navy says it will not adopt recommendations by the California Coastal Commission for limiting harm to marine mammals, including giant blue whales, from Navy sonar training, potentially moving the two sides closer to another round of legal conflict over the issue.”

## Coalition Regional Deterrence Framework policy to combat people smuggling

Mr Abbott announced this Coalition election [policy](#) which involves, among other things: investing \$27 million to prevent drowning at sea through increased aerial surveillance; offering up to \$71 million to boost search and rescue response capability of Indonesian authorities within their search and rescue zone; and supplementing Australia's border protection fleet with commercially leased vessels to support patrol operations including offshore processing transfers.

## HMAS Melbourne sails for Middle East mission

Defence [reported](#) that the Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC RAN and Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon bid the Royal Australian Navy Frigate a safe passage as she began a six-month deployment focussed on maritime security and interception operations as part of Operation Slipper.

## ALP Policy - Future Navy Taskforce

The Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, [announced](#) “The Rudd Labor Government will establish a *Future Navy* Taskforce to map out the [next steps](#) in modernising the Australian Navy fleet including potential expansion of the naval presence in key regional centres. The Taskforce will advise the Government on implementing recent high-level reviews which have identified strategic and operational advantages from basing more Navy ships in Australia's north and north-west.” [The documents are far less prescriptive with regard to the location of bases than the verbal utterances on the day, but the problem remains that there seems to be little comprehension of the differences between land and maritime strategies. Naval bases without naval forces to operate from them are merely hostages to superior maritime powers, and quite ineffective without adjacent industrial capabilities (*viz* the fall of Singapore in 1942, or the fate of Japanese island bases in 1943-5) – Editor.]

## India's first military satellite will help keep tabs on Indian Ocean region

The *Times of India* [reported](#): “India's first dedicated military satellite [GSAT-7](#) or “Rukmini”, which will be launched by Arianespace from French Guiana on Friday [29 Aug], will provide the Navy with an almost 2,000-nautical-mile-footprint over the critical Indian Ocean region (IOR).”

## Navy concludes exercise in the North West Shelf area

Defence [reported](#): “The Royal Australian Navy Ships HMAS *Sydney*, *Warramunga*, and *Sirius*, which are based on both the east and west coast of Australia, have concluded their participation in Exercise Blue Raptor in the North West Shelf area. Exercise Blue Raptor was a maritime security exercise which tested communications, procedures and protocols between the Navy ships and other units of the Australian Defence Force with the oil and gas installations in the area.”

## ALP Policy - Delivering Defence Capability through a Sustainable Domestic Shipbuilding Industry

Mr Rudd, Mr Smith and Mr Kelly announced “Consistent with the Federal Labor Government’s Defence White Paper released in May this year, Federal Labor is announcing its commitment to bring forward acquisition of two new supply ships for the Australian Navy to 2015-16. These ships will replace the Navy’s existing and aging supply ships, HMAS *Success* and HMAS *Sirius*. At a minimum, one of these replacement ships will be a ‘hybrid build’ – part build overseas, part build in Australia – with construction to commence in 2015-16.” [This announcement did not appear to be on the ALP website as at 31 Aug - Editor]

## Australian-designed Phased Array Radar and Combat Management System upgrades

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) have recently completed the final Operational Acceptance Trial for the Australian-designed Phased Array Radar and Combat Management System upgrades to the ANZAC Class frigate Anti-Ship Missile Defence (ASMD) system. The trial included a number of successful Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM) firings from HMAS Perth at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Hawaii.”

## China Seas Developments – August

If any reader has become confused about about which country claims what in the South China Sea, the BBC published a helpful [map](#) in late January, which puts the issues in better perspective.

In reporting on VADM Thomas's taking command of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, *Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “While U.S. policy takes no position on the ultimate sovereignty of the islands dotting the East and South China seas – several of which are surrounded by valuable natural resources – the U.S. does have security alliances with several of those nations, including Japan.”

The *China Daily* [reported](#) “China “strongly” opposes a US Senate resolution on disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Thursday [1 Aug].”

*The Local* (France) [reported](#) that “The Philippines is purchasing a surplus French Navy vessel to boost its forces in the South China Sea where it has an ongoing territorial dispute with China.”

The *New Statesman*, in a lengthy article on the history of the dispute, [reported](#) “History and politics are coming together in a potentially toxic fashion in the East China Sea as China, motivated by memories of Japanese wartime atrocities, agitates for dominance in the region.”

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “Japan on Tuesday [6 Aug] unveiled its biggest warship since World War II, a huge flat-top destroyer that has raised eyebrows in China and elsewhere because it bears a strong resemblance to a conventional aircraft carrier.” [Doubtless its pictures will soon appear on model boxes that show Japanese warships in the vicinity of the Shenkaku/Diaoyu Islands and in close proximity to sinking ex-Soviet aircraft carriers – Editor]

*Stars and Stripes* also reported “The Philippines on Tuesday [6 Aug] celebrated the arrival of a decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutter as its second major warship to challenge China's massive territorial claims ...”

The Philippines *ABS CBNnews.com* [reported](#) “After fortifying its naval outposts in the South China Sea, China has established a maritime surveillance patrol route that covers practically all disputed reefs, shoals and islets in the sea, even those within 85 nautical miles of the Philippines' westernmost island province of Palawan, a classified military report seen Monday [5 Aug] by Kyodo News says.”

*China.org.cn* [reported](#) “Chinese Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) proposed a three-pronged solution to the disputes over the [South China Sea](#) while meeting with the chairman of the Asia Peace Reconciliation Council in Bangkok on August 2.”

The *Voice of America* [reported](#) “Philippine officials say the nation is seeking fresh talks with the United States on expanding U.S. access to its military bases, as tensions with China rise over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea.”

In a [speech](#) at an ASPI conference on maritime confidence building measures in the South China Sea, Australia's Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, emphasised the need to develop strategic trust, and also said “We are a maritime nation as our very condition of our existence.” [It's not entirely clear what that actually means if parsed, but it does seem to demonstrate a recognition of the reality for Australia, which is a step forward – Editor]

The *Bangkok Post* [reported](#) “Asean foreign ministers agreed yesterday [14 Aug] to a code of conduct (COC) to tackle conflicts in the South China Sea. The agreement was reached at an informal gathering in Hua Hin to discuss ways of strengthening the regional grouping and to prepare for talks with China to adopt the COC as a way of settling territorial disputes in the sea.”

*ecns.cn* [reported](#) “The US has been increasing air and sea reconnaissance in waters near China, a situation that Beijing regards as dangerous and harmful to the building of trust between the two nations, a senior Chinese military officer warned on Tuesday [20 Aug].”

The Voice of Russia [reported](#) “The Russia-China relationship is perhaps one of the most intriguing relationships of contemporary times. Are they ‘comprehensive strategic partners’, as they proclaim? The answer is ‘yes’ and ‘no’.”

*china.org.cn* [reported](#) “At a study session with members of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on July 30, Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stressed in a speech

that China is preparing to cope with complexities, enhance the nation's capacity in safeguarding maritime rights and interests, and resolutely safeguard the nation's maritime rights and interests.” [Best get a qualified Sinologist to interpret that! Editor]

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “For the first time in seven years, Chinese navy ships will pull into Pearl Harbor next month in conjunction with a search and rescue exercise that is part of a growing number of military-to-military exchanges.”

The *People Daily* [reported](#) “Vice Admiral Raymond Griggs, the visiting chief of the Royal Australian Navy, and his party visited the South China Sea Fleet under the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLAN) on August 23, 2013.”

InterAksyon.com [reported](#) “Top defense officials of the Philippines and Vietnam met on Monday [26 Aug] to discuss security issues in connection with their territorial dispute with China over islets in the South China Sea while the top defense official of the United States started his tour to meet with his counterparts in Southeast Asia. [Philippines] Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Vietnam's Defense Minister, General Phung Quang Thanh, met in Camp Aguinaldo, general headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) based in Quezon City.”

*Business Standard* [reported](#): “Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Binh Minh in Beijing Wednesday [27 Aug] and pledged to resolve the dispute between the two countries in the South China Sea.”

*China Daily* [reported](#): “The Special China-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, to be held in Beijing on Aug 29 to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-ASEAN strategic partnership, will focus mainly on deepening of relations between the two sides. China and some ASEAN member states have been involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea. To defuse the tensions, however, Foreign Minister Wang Yi has proposed that the parties work out a Code of Conduct and ensure the success of the Beijing meeting on the key documents related to dispute management.”

*Business Standard* [reported](#) “At a meeting of regional states at Brunei on Thursday [29 Aug], India's minister of state for defence, Jitendra Singh, reminded China that it could not unilaterally write the rules in the region. Addressing the Asean Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) on Thursday, many of whose members fear the rising power and assertiveness of China, Singh said that territorial claims in the South China Sea could not block “unimpeded right of passage”, which were “accepted principles of international law.”

ecns.cn [reported](#) “The Chinese Defense Ministry on Thursday [29 Aug] warned relevant countries against seeking private interests under the guise of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. The ministry added that freedom of navigation has never been affected by territorial and ocean rights disputes between the countries concerned.”

## Border Protection Command Interceptions and/or Assistance – August

The Home Affairs Minister, Jason Clare, reported in August: [1 Aug](#) HMAS *Maitland* (intercept), [1 Aug](#) HMAS *Pirie* (assist), [2 Aug](#) HMAS *Albany* (assist), [3 Aug](#) HMAS [sic] *Triton* (assist), [4 Aug](#) HMAS *Melville* (intercept).

With the prorogation of the Parliament on 5 August, Customs and Border Protection took over the release of these statements: [6 Aug](#) HMAS *Albany* (assist), [7 Aug](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist), [8 Aug](#) HMAS *Albany* (intercept), [9 Aug](#) HMAS *Wollongong* (intercept), [9 Aug](#) ACV *Storm Bay* (intercept), [9/10 Aug](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist), [10/11 Aug](#) HMAS *Maryborough* and ACV *Triton* (assist), [13 Aug](#) HMAS *Glenelg* (assist), [13 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* (assist), [14 Aug](#) HMAS *Glenelg* (intercept), [18 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* (assist) – numbers later [revised](#), [18 Aug](#) HMAS *Bundaberg* (assist), [18 Aug](#) HMAS *Bundaberg* (intercept), [18/19 Aug](#) HMAS *Pirie* (assist), [20 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* and HMAS *Pirie* (assist) – SAR operation [finalised](#), [24 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* (intercept), [25 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* (assist), [26 Aug](#) HMAS *Parramatta* (assist),



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY Seapower Conference 2013

## 7 - 9 October 2013

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre,  
Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia

*Naval Diplomacy and Maritime Power Projection:  
The Utility of Navies in the Maritime Century*

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The theme of the 2013 Conference is *Naval Diplomacy and Maritime Power Projection: The Utility of Navies in the Maritime Century*, which is designed to capitalise on the presence of many foreign navies in Sydney for the International Fleet Review. The 21st century has been described as a maritime century as much as it is an Asian century, due to the pervasive nature of global sea trade and the predominantly maritime environment of the Indo-Pacific. The theme will examine the contemporary utility of navies as tools of statecraft, from hard and soft power perspectives. It will also explore, in a dedicated session, the notion of 'a maritime school of strategic thought,' a debate that has emerged in Australia in 2012, ahead of the promulgation of a revised National Security Statement and Defence White Paper.



## INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Sea Power Conference visit:

[www.seapowerconference2013.com.au](http://www.seapowerconference2013.com.au)  
[www.navy.gov.au/ifr](http://www.navy.gov.au/ifr)  
[www.navy.gov.au/history/sea-power-centre](http://www.navy.gov.au/history/sea-power-centre)  
 @seapowercentre #SP13



### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Emeritus Professor Paul Dibb, AM  
Australian National University

Professor Michael Wesley  
Australian National University

Professor Thomas Mahnken  
United States Naval War College

Admiral Sir George Zambellas, KCB, DSC  
First Sea Lord

Professor James R Holmes  
United States Naval War College

Dr C Raja Mohan  
Observer Research Foundation, India

The Honourable Kim Beazley, AC  
Ambassador to the United States of America

Professor Sarah Percy  
University of Western Australia

Mr Peter Jennings  
Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

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## SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

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### AMSA awards new emergency towage contracts

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has [awarded](#) new emergency towage contracts to continue to assist in the management of maritime pollution incidents around Australia. SVITZER Australia was successful in securing the towage contracts for eight of the ten regions, while SMIT Marine Australia successfully tendered for the South Central Queensland region and Riverwijs-Dampier retained the contract for Western Australia's north-west.

### AMSA responds to *Kaniva* sinking in June 2012

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) [said](#) it has carefully considered the WA Coroner's findings and recommendations following the inquest into the refugee boat *Kaniva* sinking in June 2012.

### Draft regulations for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [announced](#) that [draft regulations](#) for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters are available for public comment. The regulations will not be finalised until the Biosecurity Bill has been passed by Parliament.

### Shipping management plan for Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Coral Sea

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has [released](#) its North East Shipping Management Plan ([NESMP](#)) for managing shipping traffic ahead of projected increases in the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Coral Sea and is beginning public consultation ahead of its implementation. Developed in cooperation with Maritime Safety Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other government departments, AMSA will collate public comments on the plan due to be finalised in October 2013.

### New Colombo port opens

*Gulf News* [reported](#) "A \$500 million Chinese-built port opens on Monday [5 Sep] in Sri Lanka, giving Beijing a vital foothold on the world's busiest international shipping lane as it seeks to secure maritime supply routes." and "The Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), which is 85 per cent owned by the state-run China Merchant Holdings International, is designed to handle mega ships — a first for Sri Lanka which is aiming to become the region's shipping hub."

### Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved

The Productivity Commission [released](#) its draft report into [Major Project Development Assessment Processes](#), which found "a series of deficiencies in major project approval processes, with a high risk of delays and significantly increased costs. An indicative estimate for a large oil and gas project delayed by one year is in the order of \$700 million." Responses are required by 13 September.

### Admiralty Amendment Rules 2013

The Governor-General made the [rules](#), which amend the *Admiralty Rules 1988* and, among other matters, facilitate and streamline the release of a ship, from arrest, by a registrar. They also create a new Form 18A, as a "Release by Consent form".

### Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Capability Review

The Public Service Commission released the [report](#) of its capability review of the Australian Customs Service. It found weaknesses in the ACS's: leadership, workforce training, business model and IT systems.

### Fiji shipping services to improve

The *Fiji Times* [reported](#) "GOUNDAR Shipping Limited has now added another fleet [sic] to its shipping company with the launch [sic] of the \$1.5 million Lomaiviti Princess II this week in Suva. The vessel which can carry 300 passengers was brought in from Tahiti by Goundar Shipping to ease constant shipping services problems Fiji faced."

### ACCC consents to CBH wheat port undertaking variations

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [said](#) it has agreed to Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited's (CBH) proposed changes to its capacity allocation system, which governs how CBH allocates shipping capacity to exporters using CBH's bulk-grain port terminals to export wheat from Western Australia.

### Marine Order 64 (Vessel traffic services) 2013

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which provides for vessel traffic services for Australia and gives effect to Regulation 12 of Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (*SOLAS*).

### Strengthening Australia's search and rescue service

Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said "The Rudd Labor Government will invest \$19 million to strengthen Australia's search and rescue services to ensure we can continue to respond quickly to emergency situations on land and at sea and save lives." [This announcement

seems to have been made in hardcopy only and does not appear to have been published electronically. Its timing suggests that it is a pre-prorogation announcement, ie it seems to be a Government policy announcement, not an election promise - Editor]

### **Recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events – Senate Committee Report**

The Senate Committee for Environment and Communications References Committee tabled this [report](#), which made a series of recommendations relating mainly to meteorological services, land planning, building construction, insurance and emergency services. [Ports were addressed in association with the effects on other major infrastructure, and then mainly with regard to the effects of heatwaves on structures, but “maritime” and “shipping” did not rate mentions, notwithstanding the already pronounced effects on BHP's and Rio Tinto's profits of shipping delays during cyclone season in the Pilbara – Editor]

### **Tender process to replace the *Aurora Australis***

The Minister for the Environment [announced](#) “Today [8 Aug] I’m announcing that the Government has decided on Monday [5 Aug, and presumably before the prorogation of Parliament - Editor] to proceed with a tender process to replace the Aurora Australis with a new boat that will serve Australia’s Antarctic program for the next thirty years at least. We’ve decided to proceed with a tender process for a vastly expanded vessel, a vessel that will have the volume capacity about 150% bigger than the boat behind us, the Aurora Australis. It will have significantly expanded ice-breaking capacity and as I said, will really secure Australia’s place as one of the leading nations on the Antarctic continent.”

### **Deferral of decision on dredging application at Abbot Point in Queensland**

In a statement that did not seem to make it on to the ALP's or the Minister's or the Department's website, Environment Minister Mark Butler said “In order for these matters to be fully considered I have stopped the clock on my department’s assessment of the Abbot Point Capital Dredging proposal for a period of three months. This does not prevent a decision being made earlier if I believe I have enough information to make an informed decision. In addition I will be calling for public comment on The Report of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. An invitation will be placed on my department’s web site shortly.” [Which does not appear to have happened – Editor] Resources Minister Gary Gray [said](#) “This is the right decision for the resources industry in North Queensland.” [Which did make it on to a public website - Editor]

### **Ports of Auckland welcomes two new services**

Ports of Auckland [said](#) “September 2013, will see two new services call at Ports of Auckland - MSC’s Capricorn Service, which currently calls at a number of New Zealand ports and Kiwi International Express (KIX), a new vessel sharing arrangement between ANL, APL and Hanjin Shipping. Both services will link New Zealand, Australia and South East Asia. While the KIX is a recently formed service, the Capricorn service is MSC’s main service calling New Zealand.”

### **Chinese ship makes first journey on Northeast Passage route to Europe**

The *South China Morning Post* [quoted](#) AFP “A freighter belonging to Chinese shipping firm Cosco left the northeastern port of Dalian on Thursday [8 Aug] and was expected to take 33 days to reach Europe via the Bering Strait and Russia's northern coastline, the official *China Daily* reported.

### **Coalition Infrastructure Policy**

The Coalition released its policy “[New Accountability on Infrastructure and Major Project Delivery](#)”, promising an “annual statement to the House of Representatives. The statement will set out the construction status of major infrastructure projects, the amount of Commonwealth money spent on major projects over the preceding 12 months, and whether milestones have been met.” [The text of the policy seems to address only road, rail and the NBN - Editor]

### **Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan**

The Victorian Government released [Victoria - The Freight State](#), which “outlines the long term strategy to improve freight efficiency, grow productivity and better connect Victorian businesses with their markets, whether local, national or international.” The plan addresses the development of the Ports of Melbourne, Hastings, Portland and Geelong; the need to modify port facilities to handle the importation of refined petroleum products; and the potential export of Gippsland brown coal.

### **ACCC draft decision on Emerald wheat port access undertaking**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has [issued](#) a draft decision proposing to not accept, in its current form, Emerald Logistic Services Pty Ltd’s proposed wheat port access undertaking. The undertaking relates to access to port terminal services for bulk wheat export at Emerald’s bulk-grain port terminal in Melbourne. To inform its final decision, the ACCC is seeking industry comment on the revisions made by Emerald.

### **Coalition electoral policy for Tasmanian shipping and Antarctic research**

The Federal Coalition released its electoral [Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania](#) which, among other things, promises to “Implement a joint Productivity Commission and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission review into Tasmania’s shipping costs, the competitiveness of Tasmania’s freight industry structure and improving the equity and effectiveness of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation and the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Schemes” and “Make Hobart the world class centre for Antarctic Research and capabilities by providing an additional \$24 million to establish a new Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research”



## Cape Hardy port in South Australia granted major development status

The *Port Lincoln Times* [reported](#) that “The proposed multi-billion dollar deep sea port development at Cape Hardy by Iron Road Limited has been declared a major development. The port and associated infrastructure, which includes a 150 kilometre rail line, would service iron ore deposits located over land south of Wudinna. Planning Minister John Rau said the declaration of the project as a major project recognised its major environmental, social and economic importance to the state.” The ABC [reported](#) that the SA Greens said they don't see a need for multiple deep-sea ports to be built in the State.

## Indian Government to develop 8 airports, 2 sea-ports

The *Jagran Post* [reported](#) “New Delhi: Government will kick-start a number of new infrastructure projects including 8 new airports and two new sea-ports in the coming months to boost sluggish economic growth, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Thursday [15 Aug].”

## Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction

The Australian Greens have launched a [\\$176 million rescue package](#) to protect the Great Barrier Reef from mining. Greens Leader Senator Christine Milne [said](#), “Coral reefs worldwide are suffering from bleaching, acidification and storm damage from climate change. On top of that, the old parties are on track to approve five new or expanded coal and gas ports along the reef's coast. This will turn this World Heritage Area into a rubbish tip for dredge spoil and a highway for massive coal and gas ships.”

## NOPSEMA must take strong action against use of potentially toxic dispersant chemicals

The ACTU [said](#) “Australia's offshore petroleum industry safety regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, must fully investigate the use of potentially deadly dispersants to clean up oil spills in Australia.”

## Marine Order 11 (Living and working conditions on vessels) Amendment 2013 (No. 1)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority make this [Order](#), which amends the Marine Order 11 (Living and working conditions on vessels) 2013 to correct a minor drafting error in items [9] and [10] of schedule 13 to MO 11.

## India to accede to ILO's Maritime Labour Convention

Coincidentally, *The Economic Times* of India [reported](#) “A bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha today to amend the Merchant Shipping Act to enable India to accede to a global convention that exempts Indian vessels on international voyages from inspection.” and “After the amendment, every Indian flag vessel of 500 gross tonnage or more and engaged in international voyage(s), would be issued with Maritime Labour Certificate after inspection of the ship concerned” “This will enable them to get preferential treatment and exemption from their inspection for this purpose at foreign ports thereby reducing operational time and transaction costs for them.” [This probably means that Australian port authorities will become the meat in the sandwich in tussles between the MUA and Indian ship captains waving their Maritime Labour Certificates issued in India – Editor]

## ILO Maritime Labour Convention in force in Australia

Ministers Albanese and Shorten announced “The ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006 enters into force in Australia and internationally today [20 Aug], modernising more than 60 existing international labour standards going back over eight decades. There are 1.2 million seafarers in the world and their work is often hard, dangerous and out of sight of the general public. The Convention sets out in minimum working and living conditions for the world's seafarers.” [The statement does not appear to have been posted on the Departmental or ALP websites – Editor]

The Australian Shipowners Association [welcomed](#) the convention as “a step towards fair competition and a level playing field.”

InterManager said “There has been some confusion over how the role of the ship manager should be defined by Flag States under the terms of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC).” and published an [explanation](#).

## Tax proposal threatens Canadian ports

To remind us of one of the benefits of Australia's being an island occupied by a single(?) nation, the Vancouver *Globe and Mail* [reported](#) “As Canadian port executives meet in Nanaimo, B.C., for their annual conference, they are keeping an eye on two U.S. senators who are proposing new legislation to cut down on the container traffic choosing Canadian ports over American ones.” [Not that Australia is immune from State-based discrimination – Editor]

For the US point of view, read the US *Port Strategy's* [article](#).

## Union stages industrial action as shipping route to northern WA towns cancelled

The ABC [reported](#) “The cancellation of the only shipping service connecting Perth and the state's northern towns has sparked industrial action amid concerns of increased living costs. The State Government provides an \$8 million a year subsidy of the only shipping route that runs from Perth to Darwin, providing a freight service to the towns of Karratha, Hedland, Broome and Wyndham.”

## Advanced Marina Management Scholarship Winner Announced

The Marina Industries Association [announced](#) that the winner of the Bellingham Marine Australia Advanced Marina Management (AMM) Scholarship is James Thompson, Marina Manager at Sydney Boathouse. The scholarship is offered as an incentive for those in the marina industries to further their education and advance their career. The scholarship covers the cost of the AMM course which is being held in Sydney from 22-27 September, 2013.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr [warned](#) that a group of Australians taking part in a “Freedom Flotilla” to Indonesia’s Papuan provinces could face up to 5 years jail for immigration and other offences if they enter Indonesian waters without approval.

### **Upgrade of ports and shipping services to Vanuatu's remote islands**

The ABC [reported](#) “A major project to upgrade ports and shipping services to Vanuatu's remote islands is underway. The Vanuatu Inter-island Shipping Support Project is based on similar successful developments in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands.” For Asian Development Bank project details, click [here](#).

### **Cleaner shipping rules to hit fuel oil market**

*Malaya Business Insight* [reported](#) “Under legislation voted in by the United Nations’ International Maritime Organization new sulphur content specifications for ships operating in the Baltic, the North Sea and the English Channel will be revised down from 1.5 percent to 1 percent next July. Demand for shipping fuel, known as bunker fuel, in these key transport channels amounts to nearly a quarter of the European fuel oil market.”

### **Rod Nairn confirmed as CEO, Shipping Australia Limited**

The Board of Shipping Australia Limited have [confirmed](#) the appointment of Commodore Rod Nairn AM as chief executive officer. Commodore Nairn has been acting CEO of Shipping Australia while his predecessor, Llew Russell AM took long service leave in preparation for his retirement.

### **ATSB report - Drift towards danger of the bulk carrier *ID Integrity*, Coral Sea, 18 to 23 May 2012**

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau [released](#) its report, which found that the need for maintenance on a fuel pump reversing mechanism had not been included in the ship's engine manuals or planned maintenance system.

### **Queensland ports load a record 16.3 mil mt coal in July**

Platts [reported](#) “Ports in Australia's Queensland state loaded 16.3 million mt of coal in in July, the highest total for the month on record, the state's government said Thursday [22 Aug].”

### **Ports Australia Releases “Leading Practice – Port Master Planning”**

Ports Australia [released](#) its report, saying “The [National Ports Strategy](#) has as one of its foundations the preparation of long term and transparent master plans on the part of our trading ports. The intention is that this process be accompanied by improved regulatory settings for ports, and deliver the certainty required to attract investment in port infrastructure”

### **There are shipping problems, and there are *real* shipping problems!**

The *Fiji Times* [reported](#) “Goundar Shipping Services has apologised for inconvenience it caused when it failed to pick passengers on a scheduled routine inter-island trip. The incident, which forced stranded passengers to look for food and shelter as they waited for the vessel, lasted a little over 24 hours, the Consumer Council of Fiji said after it received a host of complaints about the problem.”

### **Australian Marina Industry Survey**

All 356 marinas in Australia are currently being invited to participate in the second Health of the Australian Marina Industry Survey. This national survey is being conducted by the Marina Industry Association (MIA) in association with the Recreational Marine Research Centre (RMRC) at Michigan State University. The online survey is being provided to all marinas via email. For more details, contact [Colin Bransgrove](#).

### **Unsafe marine work practices targeted in ATSB video**

A new video highlighting the ongoing safety concerns for maritime workers has been [released](#) by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). The video features the accident of a crew member on board a ship who was tragically killed by an explosion while cutting a used 200 litre drum with an angle grinder. [Seems to indicate a definitional overlap (conflict?) between “transport safety” and “occupational health and safety” - Editor]

### **Opposition to Fitzroy Terminal coal export project at Keppel Bay QLD**

The Rockhampton *Bulletin* [reported](#) “The Mitchell Group is surging ahead with plans for its \$900 million Fitzroy Terminal coal export project despite strong opposition from former environment minister Tony Burke. Mr Burke wrote to the company after receiving new information from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which convinced him the proposal was clearly unacceptable.”

### **Fiji Government Shipping Services to be transferred back to ministry**

fijivillage.com [reported](#) “Government has endorsed the transfer of the Government Shipping Services back to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Public Utilities.” and “The Government Shipping Services was under the command of the Fiji Navy since 2010.”

### **Ports shore-to-ship power systems demonstration**

*The Motorship* [reported](#) “Recently, the Port of Ystad in southern Sweden played host to an event demonstrating the benefits of shore-to-ship power systems. The prime advantages are environmental. Shore power systems enable ships to connect to shore side power when docked, rather than running their own engines and gensets.”



As a reference point for many of the following reports on the world shipping outlook, here is the [Baltic Dry Index](#).

The *South China Morning Post* [reported](#): “Conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa's disappointing performance in its port business in Guangdong and Hong Kong underlines a worrying prospect for trade flow in the 'factory of the world', according to industry players.”

China's *Global Times* [reported](#) “China's coastal shipping sector declined to a historic low in the first half, with the benchmark China Coastal Bulk Freight Index (CCBFI) dropping below 1,000 points in June, and the sector is unlikely to see any obvious improvement in the second half, according to a posting on the website of the [Ministry of Transport](#) (MOT) on Thursday [8 Aug].”

The Port of Los Angeles has released its July 2013 [cargo volumes](#). “July overall volumes totaled 715,640 Twenty-Foot Equivalent (TEU) containers, the busiest cargo month of 2013. Compared to July 2012, volumes slipped 1.48 percent.”

*The Independent* [reported](#) “Maersk said profits in its shipping business, which is seen as a bellweather for international trade, had almost doubled to \$439 million ...” Read the Maersk 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2013 report [here](#).

*The Market Realist* released an [analysis](#) headlined “Shipping stocks soar on higher rates”

*Steel Guru* [said](#) that “Bloomberg reported that iron ore shipping costs had the biggest weekly gain since June amid signs demand is strengthening to transport the commodity to China.”

On the other hand, South Korea's *YonHap* Newsagency [reported](#) “More than a score of top shipping companies in South Korea are on the verge of a default due to worsening financial health stemming from the protracted economic downturn, the state-run debt clearer said Monday [19 Aug].” This was subsequently reinforced by a [report](#) by The Maritime Executive on analysis by Drewry Maritime Equity Research of Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. Ltd (HMM) and Hanjin Shipping Co Ltd (Hanjin).

The *South China Morning Post* [reported](#): “Sinotrans, the mainland's largest freight forwarding company, said the shipping industry is recovering but it is too early to predict an upturn in freight rates.”

The Greek *ekathimerini.com* [reported](#) that “Analysts have revised their estimates for the recovery of the shipping industry to 2014 or 2015, with a report from professional services giant Deloitte saying that 2012 saw the industry in recession, with significant declines in profits and valuations.”

## **UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – August developments**

*The Maritime Executive* [reported](#) “On Thursday [8 Aug], United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) applauded German shipping company Reederei Rudolf Schepers GmbH & Co KG (Reederei Rudolf Schepers) for ending port calls to Iran. Last month, UANI wrote to Reederei Rudolf Schepers, and raised concerns with the business of its vessel, the TS Jakarta. The TS Jakarta had been making calls at Bandar Abbas port, which is operated by the sanctioned entity Tidewater Middle East Co.”

## **Shipping Corp of India Expects Iran to Release Tanker Soon**

The *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) “India is making progress with Iran in resolving a dispute over an Indian oil tanker that was detained by Iranian naval authorities more than two weeks ago, an executive at state-run Shipping Corp. of India Ltd., the tanker's owner, said Friday.”

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## **FISHERIES**

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### **Recovery plan for the White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority made an [Instrument revoking and making a recovery plan \(White Shark \(\*Carcharodon carcharias\*\)\)](#). The new instrument revokes the current recovery plan for the white shark, the White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) Recovery Plan 2002, and makes a new recovery plan, the Recovery Plan for the White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) 2013.

### **Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery research program**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority [announced](#) “The Commonwealth Fisheries Research Advisory Body (ComFRAB) has identified a priority for FRDC funding in 2013-14 and is calling for expressions of interest by 1 September 2013.”

AFMA went on to say “Please note that this is a separate call to the FRDC 2014 annual open call.”

### **Western Australia Pearl Oyster Fishery - Agency application**

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities received an [application](#), 'Application to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on the Western Australian Pearl Oyster Fishery', from the Western Australian Department of Fisheries in July 2013 and is seeking public input by 6 September.

### **High Court decision - Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim**

The High Court [held](#) that “successive Commonwealth and Queensland legislation, which prohibited taking fish and other aquatic life for commercial purposes without a licence, did not extinguish the native title right of certain island communities in the Torres Strait to take resources from defined areas of water.”

**Fisheries Management (International Agreements) Amendment Regulation 2013 (No. 1)**

The Governor-General made this [Regulation](#), which amends the Fisheries Management (International Agreements) Regulations 2009 to update the IFMOs to which Australia is a party to include the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). It also includes amendments to the IFMMs that are currently prescribed and prescribes new IFMMs that have come into force as a result of decisions made at meetings of three IFMOs held since the first amendment regulation. These IFMOs are the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

**Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2013**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [determination](#), which sets the total allowable catch for species in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery for the 2013 fishing year.

**EU announces deductions from 2013 fishing quotas**

The European Commission [announced](#) deductions from 2013 fishing quotas for those Member States that declared having exceeded their quotas in 2012. This yearly deduction exercise allows the Commission to immediately address the damage done to the stocks overfished in the previous year and ensure a sustainable use by Member States of common fishery resources.

**Pacific Island countries – sustainable tuna fishing**

Greenpeace [says](#) that a new [report](#) it has compiled “offers a road map for Pacific Island governments a road map to transform their tuna industries. And by protecting precious tuna reserves from overfishing, it’ll create local jobs and maximise the return to local economies.”

**Fish With No Protections of Any Kind**

The Pew environment group [started](#) a Pacific-wide fishery management campaign “to enhance America’s ocean legacy by conserving tiny schooling fish, called forage fish, that serve as food for iconic species such as humpback whales, salmon, and brown pelicans.”

**Fisheries Management (Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002) Temporary Order 2013 No. 1**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority made this [Order](#) because of the recent closure by Tasmanian authorities of the White Rock area of the Tasmanian Scallop Fishery. “The Order sets out to override the minimum notice period in subsection 27(4) of the Management Plan allowing the Authority to open the fishing season approximately 14 days prior to the original scheduled start of the season. An early start to the season will alleviate the economic impact of PSP concerns and the poor condition of scallops in the Tasmanian fishery. Furthermore, an early season opening reduces the risk of a natural mortality die off event as has occurred in some areas in previous fishing seasons.”

Which may, or may not, be relevant to AFMA's later media [statement](#) “There will soon be plenty of wild-caught, high quality scallops for Australians to enjoy. Fishers are heading out to the waters of Bass Strait to begin harvesting this popular shellfish. The 2013 season started on 19 August.”

**Illegal Fishing, Your Number's Up!**

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) on a campaign to have International Maritime Organization ship identification numbers, which stay with the vessel throughout its life, made mandatory for fishing vessels.

**Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 1 2013**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority made this [direction](#), which closes the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery to fishing while allowing for a small part of the fishery to remain open to fishing for a specified amount of time.

**New Bluefin Tuna rules proposed for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico**

The Pew environment group [reported](#) on measures which could have implications for Pacific fisheries “Boats using surface fishing lines with miles of baited hooks would get individual yearly limits for bluefin tuna bycatch under rules proposed to end the practice of dumping dead bluefin caught on hooks meant for other species.”

**Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Application**

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities received an [application](#), *Annual status report 2011 East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery 2011 Progress against SEWPaC conditions and recommendations and East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery 2011 & 2012 Progress against SEWPaC conditions and recommendations*, from Fisheries Queensland in August 2013, and is seeking public input by 23 September.

**Coalition Fisheries Policy**

The Coalition [released](#) its fishing industry policy, saying “A Coalition government will restore confidence in the Australian fishing industry by returning scientific and commercial rigour to decision making about Marine Protected Areas. If elected, the Coalition will suspend and review the flawed Management Plans for Marine Protected Areas that have been imposed without fair, adequate or thoughtful consultation.” The policy was later [welcomed](#) by the National Seafood Industry Alliance.

## Fishing industry wants answers from Labor Party

The Commonwealth Fisheries Association [said](#) "The Commonwealth fishing industry is very disturbed to read that the Environment Minister, the Hon Mark Butler, is calling for donations to the Labor Party to ensure the marine reserves are retained and the marine environment 'saved' from overfishing and industrial trawling."

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## RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

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### Development of Browse gas resources

Resources Minister Gary Gray [announced](#) his decision to vary conditions on five Browse retention leases, paving the way for the earliest possible commercialisation of the Browse hydrocarbons field.

"The decision to vary the Browse retention leases was taken to ensure the timely development of these gas resources for the benefit of the Australian, Western Australian and Kimberley coast economies," Mr Gray said. "It was clear that the Browse Joint Venture did not consider development of James Price Point to be commercially viable. I take the view that companies, not governments, are best placed to determine which developments are commercially viable, subject of course to environmental and regulatory requirements."

### Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved

The Productivity Commission [released](#) its draft report into [Major Project Development Assessment Processes](#), which found "a series of deficiencies in major project approval processes, with a high risk of delays and significantly increased costs. An indicative estimate for a large oil and gas project delayed by one year is in the order of \$700 million." Responses are required by 13 September.

### Excessive wages threaten Australia's offshore oil and gas industry - Deloitte report

The Australian Mines and Metals Association [released](#) a Deloitte Access Economics [report](#) into the economic pressures in Australia's offshore oil and gas marine support sector which found increasing labour and operating costs, productivity issues and macroeconomic challenges have significantly impacted the industry's international competitiveness.

### Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction

The Australian Greens have launched a [\\$176 million rescue package](#) to protect the Great Barrier Reef from mining. Greens Leader Senator Christine Milne [said](#), "Coral reefs worldwide are suffering from bleaching, acidification and storm damage from climate change. On top of that, the old parties are on track to approve five new or expanded coal and gas ports along the reef's coast. This will turn this World Heritage Area into a rubbish tip for dredge spoil and a highway for massive coal and gas ships."

### Perth Will Be Home to Global Oil and Gas Innovation – ALP Policy

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd [announced](#) that "A re-elected Rudd Government will establish a new National Floating Systems Research Centre in Perth, led by the CSIRO and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in partnership with industry. In addition, the Rudd Government has also announced Perth will be the national headquarters of the Oil & Gas Innovation Partnership, with additional nodes in Brisbane, Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

### NOPSEMA must take strong action against use of potentially toxic dispersant chemicals

The ACTU [said](#) "Australia's offshore petroleum industry safety regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, must fully investigate the use of potentially deadly dispersants to clean up oil spills in Australia."

### Safety in the offshore drilling industry

On the first anniversary of the deaths of two workers on the Stena Clyde in Bass Strait, the ACTU [said](#) safety in the offshore drilling industry must be improved. "NOPSEMA is still continuing its investigation into the fatalities. No charges have yet been laid and nor is there any indication from the regulator about when it might conclude its investigation." "The ACTU is concerned that NOPSEMA is too close to the industry to act as an effective regulator. It must ensure it takes the views of workers and unions into account when investigating safety breaches ..."

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## MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

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### SeaSim, the National Sea Simulator, opened at AIMS in Townsville

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [said](#) that the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Kim Carr opened the National Sea Simulator (SeaSim) in Townsville. The \$35 million SeaSim is a research aquarium that can get closer to replicating the conditions of the open ocean; a reef lagoon; or flooding rivers, than any other facility in the world.

### Draft regulations for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [announced](#) that [draft regulations](#) for the Biosecurity Bill 2013 ballast water and approved arrangements chapters are available for public comment. The regulations will not be finalised until the Biosecurity Bill has been passed by Parliament.

## Climate 'causing huge ocean changes'

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef studies [reported](#) “Profound changes are taking place in marine life around the planet in response to global warming, an international team of scientists has found.” and “Some species have moved up to 470 kms in a decade , says a [report](#) in the journal *Nature Climate Change* by scientists from Australia, Germany, South Africa, the UK, the US, Denmark, Spain and Canada. This contrasts with an average 6 km movement by life on land. Most of the movement is towards the poles as sea life searches for cooler waters.” [See also the CSIRO's [report](#) – Editor]

## Major Project Approval Processes Need to be Improved

The Productivity Commission [released](#) its draft report into [Major Project Development Assessment Processes](#), which found “a series of deficiencies in major project approval processes, with a high risk of delays and significantly increased costs. An indicative estimate for a large oil and gas project delayed by one year is in the order of \$700 million.” Responses are required by 13 September.

## Recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events – Senate Committee Report

The Senate Committee for Environment and Communications References Committee tabled this [report](#), which made a series of recommendations relating mainly to meteorological services, land planning, building construction, insurance and emergency services. [Ports were addressed in association with the effects on other major infrastructure, and then mainly with regard to the effects of heatwaves on structures, but “maritime” and “shipping” did not rate mentions, notwithstanding the already pronounced effects on BHP's and Rio Tinto's profits of shipping delays during cyclone season in the Pilbara – Editor]

## Tender process to replace the *Aurora Australis*

The Minister for the Environment [announced](#) “Today [8 Aug] I’m announcing that the Government has decided on Monday [5 Aug, and presumably before the prorogation of Parliament - Editor] to proceed with a tender process to replace the *Aurora Australis* with a new boat that will serve Australia’s Antarctic program for the next thirty years at least. We’ve decided to proceed with a tender process for a vastly expanded vessel, a vessel that will have the volume capacity about 150% bigger than the boat behind us, the *Aurora Australis*. It will have significantly expanded ice-breaking capacity and as I said, will really secure Australia’s place as one of the leading nations on the Antarctic continent.”

## Deferral of decision on dredging application at Abbot Point in Queensland

In a statement that did not seem to make it on to the ALP's or the Minister's or the Department's website, Environment Minister Mark Butler said “In order for these matters to be fully considered I have stopped the clock on my department’s assessment of the Abbot Point Capital Dredging proposal for a period of three months. This does not prevent a decision being made earlier if I believe I have enough information to make an informed decision. In addition I will be calling for public comment on The Report of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. An invitation will be placed on my department’s web site shortly.” Resources Minister Gary Gray [said](#) “This is the right decision for the resources industry in North Queensland.” [Which did make it on to a public website – Editor]

## Fish With No Protections of Any Kind

The Pew environment group [started](#) a Pacific-wide fishery management campaign “to enhance America’s ocean legacy by conserving tiny schooling fish, called forage fish, that serve as food for iconic species such as humpback whales, salmon, and brown pelicans.”

## Coalition electoral policy for Tasmanian shipping and Antarctic research

The Federal Coalition released its electoral [Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania](#) which, among other things, promises to “Implement a joint Productivity Commission and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission review into Tasmania’s shipping costs, the competitiveness of Tasmania’s freight industry structure and improving the equity and effectiveness of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation and the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Schemes” and “Make Hobart the world class centre for Antarctic Research and capabilities by providing an additional \$24 million to establish a new Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research”

## Australian Greens plan to save Great Barrier Reef from mining destruction

The Australian Greens have launched [a \\$176 million rescue package](#) to protect the Great Barrier Reef from mining. Greens Leader Senator Christine Milne [said](#) “Coral reefs worldwide are suffering from bleaching, acidification and storm damage from climate change. On top of that, the old parties are on track to approve five new or expanded coal and gas ports along the reef's coast. This will turn this World Heritage Area into a rubbish tip for dredge spoil and a highway for massive coal and gas ships.”

## Reef heritage discovered and commemorated

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [said](#) “The Great Barrier Reef continues to reveal its hidden heritage with the discovery of three possible historic shipwrecks since April — the most recent in the past month.”

## US Navy rejects California’s request for whale protections

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “The U.S. Navy says it will not adopt recommendations by the California Coastal Commission for limiting harm to marine mammals, including giant blue whales, from Navy sonar training, potentially moving the two sides closer to another round of legal conflict over the issue.”

## Cleaner shipping rules to hit fuel oil market

*Malaya Business Insight* [reported](#) “Under legislation voted in by the United Nations’ International Maritime Organization new sulphur content specifications for ships operating in the Baltic, the North Sea and the English Channel will be revised down from 1.5 percent to 1



percent next July. Demand for shipping fuel, known as bunker fuel, in these key transport channels amounts to nearly a quarter of the European fuel oil market.”

### Rising ocean acidity will exacerbate global warming

nature.com [reported](#): “The slow and inexorable increase in the oceans’ acidity as they soak up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere could itself have an effect on climate and amplify global warming, according to a new study. Acidification would lead certain marine organisms to emit less of the sulphur compounds that help to seed the formation of clouds and so keep the planet cool.”

### Coalition Fisheries Policy

The Coalition [released](#) its fishing industry policy, saying “A Coalition government will restore confidence in the Australian fishing industry by returning scientific and commercial rigour to decision making about Marine Protected Areas. If elected, the Coalition will suspend and review the flawed Management Plans for Marine Protected Areas that have been imposed without fair, adequate or thoughtful consultation.” The policy was later [welcomed](#) by the National Seafood Industry Alliance.

### ALP Announces \$137 Million for Critical Support of Great Barrier Reef

Environment Minister Mark Butler and Agriculture Minister Joel Fitzgibbon [announced](#) \$137.3 million in funding for projects to protect the Great Barrier Reef. They said the funded projects would improve land management practices, restore wetlands and biodiversity, and improve the quality of water flowing into the reef. Funding for these projects is already included in the Budget.

### Fishing industry wants answers from Labor Party

The Commonwealth Fisheries Association [said](#) “The Commonwealth fishing industry is very disturbed to read that the Environment Minister, the Hon Mark Butler, is calling for donations to the Labor Party to ensure the marine reserves are retained and the marine environment ‘saved’ from overfishing and industrial trawling.”

### Coalition announces 20 Year Strategic Plan for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research

The Coalition [announced](#) it “... will prepare a 20 Year Strategic Plan for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research to enshrine Tasmania’s position at the centre of Antarctic research and services to the region. The Strategic Plan will consider Australia’s generational interests in preserving and researching the Antarctic Environment. In particular we will examine the long-term strategic challenges and needs for Australia in the Antarctic including our research requirements if we are to be an international Antarctic hub.

### EU to be represented at the annual Pacific Islands Forum meeting

The European Union [announced](#) “European Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard will represent the European Union in the annual Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands, on 3-5 September. This year’s meeting focuses on the Pacific region’s response to climate change.”

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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If you have comment to make on an article in a previous *Digest*, or if you wish to comment on a maritime issue that you think *should* be addressed, please e-mail [news@aama.asn.au](mailto:news@aama.asn.au) with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject field. Please keep your “letter” to 100-150 words and include hyperlinks to any supporting documentation.

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## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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### 4 September 2013 - DAFF Role in Border Control – dinner and talk – Newcastle, NSW

David Ironside, National Director Air and Sea Cargo Program, Cargo - Border Compliance, will discuss the latest DAFF practices and requirements that are applied to border control across all ports. For details, click [here](#)

### 4-5 September 2013 - 4<sup>th</sup> Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response Seminar – London, UK

The event will focus on the most current developments in operational response to a salvage situation and what impact these have had on the industry. Register [here](#)



**9-13 September 2013 - London International Shipping Week – London, UK**

*London International Shipping Week* will comprise dozens of maritime events hosted by shipping-related associations and commercial organisations, together offering multiple networking opportunities. For details, click [here](#).

**11 September 2013 - Entry into Enclosed Spaces: a day of Education, Awareness and Training – London, UK**

This Nautical Institute seminar and training workshop is a chance to bring together ship operation managers and superintendents, alongside safety managers and those people most directly involved, the people on the deck or below it who are going to enter such spaces. Register [here](#) or download [brochure](#)

**11-13 September 2013 - Coasts & Ports 2013 conference – Manly, Sydney**

This is an amalgamation of the 21st Australasian Coastal and Ocean Engineering Conference and the 14th Australasian Port and Harbour Conference. For details, click [here](#).

**23-25 September 2013 - The Annual World Congress of Ocean-2013 , Hangzhou, China**

Theme: Economy, Resources and Growth. For details, click [here](#).

**22-27 September 2013 - Advanced Marina Management Course – Sydney**

The Advanced Marina Management (AMM) program is a profit-management training course designed for senior marina professionals. For details, click [here](#)

**30 September – 4 October 2013 – International Symposium for Next Generation Infrastructure – Wollongong**

Part of an international symposia series to commence a global infrastructure research program about long term infrastructure and land use planning. For details, click [here](#).

**7-9 October 2013 – Pacific 2013 International Maritime Conference (IMC) – Darling Harbour, Sydney**

The Pacific 2013 IMC will be held in association with the Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition and the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Power Conference, and follows the success of the International Maritime Conference held in January 2012. Normally held every two years, it has been brought forward to October 2013 to coincide with the Royal Australian Navy's centenary celebrations of the first arrival of the RAN's fleet unit in Sydney on 4 October 1913. For details: click [here](#)

**8 October 2013 - Ports and the Environment Seminar (part of Pacific 2013) - at Darling Harbour, Sydney**

This will address a key factor shaping the development and growth of our major ports: environmental issues and the regulatory framework that impacts on port operators, the shipping industry and their stakeholders in the export and logistics sectors. For details, click [here](#)

**12-15 November 2013 - 2013 NSW Coastal Conference – Port Macquarie, NSW**

Covers: strategic planning, coastal values, infrastructure and the coast, and science and technology. For details, click [here](#).

**16-17 October 2013 - 9<sup>th</sup> Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg, Germany**

Case studies of how shipowners have gone through the process of selection and integration of ballast water systems and the latest on the ratification process and regional regulatory requirements. For details: click [here](#)

**23-24 October 2013 - Life Extension & Integrity of Offshore Structures – Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

Will cover: Codes and regulations affecting requirements, Fatigue assessments – the different approaches, Probabilistic fatigue assessment and inspection planning, Validation of probabilistic inspection methods, and Lessons learnt from real industry observations. For details, click [here](#)

**23-24 October 2013 - 8<sup>th</sup> Southern Asia Ports, Logistics and Shipping Conference – Mumbai, India**

This 2 days Conference will feature 35 world-class ports, shipping and logistics business leaders who will analyse latest global container transportation and logistics issues in the Southern Asian region and its impact on global shipping and trade. For details, click [here](#)

**13-14 November 2013 - 4 Elements of Effective Corrosion Management Seminar – Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

The workshop will discuss the 4 elements (Treatments, Barriers, Assurance and Verification tools), essential for any successful corrosion management system. For details, click [here](#)

**20-21 November 2013 – ACI's 7<sup>th</sup> Optimising Fuel Management & Operational Efficiency conference – Singapore**

It will examine the performance enhancing options available to ship owners and ship managers for efficiency maximisation and increased profitability. For details: click [here](#)

**4-5 December 2013 – Optimising Port Development – London**

The conference will address the key challenges faced by modern ports and terminals in order to present an efficient and attractive option to the shipping lines. For details: click [here](#)

**29-30 January 2014 - 8<sup>th</sup> Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Summit – London**

The event will examine the performance enhancing options available to ship owners and ship managers for efficiency maximisation and increased profitability. Special focus will be placed on how to maximise existing vessel's profitability, the tools for measuring performance and specific fuel-efficiency improving equipment. For details, click [here](#)

**27-28 February 2014 - 6th Intermodal Asia 2014 Australia Exhibition and Conference – Melbourne**

Supported by Port of Melbourne Corporation. For details: click [here](#)

**5-6 March 2014 4<sup>th</sup> FPSO Vessel Conference – London**

The event will examine the streamlining of operations and how to optimise technologies to maximise return on investment in FPSO hotspots. The conference will take an in-depth look at the financial drivers behind FPSO (floating production, storage and offloading) projects. For more details, click [here](#)

**19-20 March 2014 – Australian Logistics Council Forum 2014 – Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney**

2014 needs to be a year of delivery by all governments to improve supply chain efficiency in Australia. The ALC Forum 2014 will focus on **delivery** on major infrastructure projects, **delivery** on long-term freight planning and **delivery** on reforms to reduce red tape and improve safety in the freight logistics industry. To receive details: click [here](#)

**7-11 April 2014 – XXII International Maritime Pilots' Association Congress – Panama**

For details: click [here](#)

**7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide**

Australia is hosting World Aquaculture for the first time since 1999. This annual event will incorporate the biennial Australasian Aquaculture conference and trade show. Call for papers by 1 November 2013. For details, click [here](#)

**7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra**

Details tba.

**2014 (date tba) - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide**

Press [statement](#)

**There is no charge for entries under  
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