



AUSMEPA MEDIA RELEASE

ISSUED BY THE AUSTRALIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (AUSMEPA)

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Michael Julian, AUSMEPA's Executive Director, said today that he was pleased to mark World Maritime Day by announcing the launch of the 2nd edition of the seafarer educational DVD *Welcome to Australia protecting our marine environment*. The DVD has been jointly produced by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA). The launch of the DVD was made at the Australian Shipowners Association's inaugural *Ships and the Environment Australia* Summit SEA 09 held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Summit also marked World Maritime Day 2009.

The DVD, which describes the importance of Australia's unique marine environment and in particular the Great Barrier Reef, also reminds ship masters and their crews of the international regulations under The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) with which they must comply while in Australian waters. The DVD also highlights the penalties for contravening the regulations.

The DVD can be viewed in seven languages; Chinese (Mandarin), English, Greek, Japanese, Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish. A copy of the DVD will be placed on every ship, when it first arrives in Australia, by its agent. Supplies of the DVD will be available through the Australian Shipowners Association (ASA) and Shipping Australia Ltd. (SAL) and in selected ports from the Apostleship of the Sea's Stella Maris Seafarer Centres. The English version of the DVD can be viewed on the AUSMEPA website www.ausmepa.org.au

The first edition of the DVD *Welcome to Australia protecting our marine environment* was issued in September 2005 and has been placed on over 3,500 ships

At the *Ships and the Environment Australia* Summit, Michael Julian welcomed ASP Ship Management, and Shell Tankers Australia as the most recent AUSMEPA Gold Sponsors and the Newcastle Port Corporation as a Bronze Sponsor. He also presented AUSMEPA flags and certificates to Captain John Evans, Fleet Manager Shell Tankers Australia, whose seven ships (M.V. Northwest Sanderling, M.V. Northwest Sandpiper,

M.V. Northwest Stormpetrel, M.V. Northwest Snipe, M.V. Northwest Seaeagle, M.V. Helix and M.V. Helcion) had recently been approved under the AUSMEPA Ship Membership Scheme. AUSMEPA recognises that many ship operators ensure their vessels go beyond simple compliance with international regulations. The ship membership scheme acknowledges quality shipping that meets AUSMEPA's strict safety and environmental criteria.

Funds raised from AUSMEPA membership, sponsorships and the ship membership scheme help provide free marine environment educational resources to our young Australians and their teachers and also to seafarers. The free school education resources are available on the AUSMEPA website www.ausmepa.org.au.

For more information about AUSMEPA and the services it provides, please visit the website.