

Navy Environmental Policy



As Chief of Navy I have a keen interest and responsibility to ensure that Navy's good reputation for responsible environmental management is preserved and enhanced. I expect all Navy personnel, ashore and afloat, to have a similar attitude and to take personal responsibility for avoiding any actions which could impact adversely on the natural environment in our various establishments and pristine ocean training areas.

We often operate under challenging circumstances and can sometimes take the environment for granted. I aim to build on our present sound performance, by instilling at all levels in Navy a culture of environmental awareness that is embedded in our daily work and activities. I want to be confident that all Navy personnel – uniformed and civilian - continually think about the nature of their work and avoid the potential impacts that careless actions may have on the environment.



Greater environmental awareness means we will identify and act upon environmental risks before they result in an incident. I encourage Navy personnel to speak up if potential environmental risks are observed – particularly because in many cases these may also involve an equally important safety risk. Your action may prevent serious damage to the environment or to Navy's good reputation. Cleaning up or repairing environmental damage expends considerable money, time and effort which would be better directed to Navy's operational requirements. Environmental awareness also means we should also learn from any mistakes. To do this we need good reporting mechanisms in place to capture lessons learned.

I expect all Commanding Officers to work hard at maintaining a positive and proactive environmental management and awareness culture within their Command. In this respect, I require all Commanding Officers to consider environmental implications in planning Navy activities, and to be familiar with the valuable guidance provided in the CO's Guide to Environmental Compliance. In our shore establishments, this will involve close liaison and cooperation with Defence Support Group staff to assist in meeting their base environmental management responsibilities. At sea, the ADF Maritime Activities Environmental Management Plan and associated Procedure Cards provide us with mechanisms to identify and avoid potential environmental impacts. Commanding Officers must adopt these procedures to ensure Navy personnel act appropriately in managing the various ship discharges and emissions that are a feature of operations at sea and in harbour.

Increased environmental awareness within Navy will support the continuing need to balance the demands of effective support, training and operations with the need for careful stewardship of the land and sea areas we are entrusted to use and manage. The Australian Government and public has every right to expect that we will responsibly preserve for future generations the heritage and environment in which we operate.

I am proud of Navy's present environmental credentials. Nonetheless, while we like to regard many of the measures we have adopted as world's best practice, there is always scope for improvement..

I look forward to your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Russ Crane', with a horizontal line underneath.

Vice Admiral Russ Crane, AM, CSM, RAN
Chief of Navy
May 2009

