

Navy Environmental Policy Statement

A Thinking Navy – A Fighting Navy – An Australian Navy



The Security and Prosperity of Australia is tied directly to the Maritime Domain. Australia's \$1.6 trillion economy is dependent upon the security of our international trade routes, shipping and vast marine resources.

Navy plays a vital role in protecting Australia's oceans, from controlling illegal fishing activity to enforcing the quarantine barrier all of which contribute to Australia to efficiently, safely and securely access and defend the maritime domain and its resources now and into the future.

The Navy is beholden to the Australian people who rightly expect Navy embody the best of Australian culture. This means that Navy needs to take all reasonable steps to avoid damaging the marine environment and delicate ecosystems wherever in the world we operate and ensure that we exercise responsible environmental management, both at sea and ashore.

Whilst supporting the Australian Defence Force's capability to defend Australia and its national interests, I am committed to ensuring Navy is proactive in minimising its environmental impact across all phases of the capability life cycle.

I expect all Navy people, ashore and afloat, to maintain the highest of standards in meeting our environmental compliance responsibilities and to act responsibly by following standard operating procedures aimed at preventing environmental damage. I also expect all Commanding Officers to lead a culture of positive and proactive environmental management within their Commands, including encouraging individuals to report both on risks to the environment and opportunities to improve. All Navy people are to adhere to the Maritime Activities Environmental Management Plan. This plan guides Navy operations, exercises and day to day activities at sea and on shore.

Commanding Officers are to act quickly to ensure all measures are taken to minimise any impact on the environment from an environmental incident (e.g. oil or AFFF spills, introduction of marine pests etc) and to promptly initiate an incident report detailing the causes and actions taken to prevent a recurrence.

Governments throughout the Australian jurisdiction have recognised the vulnerability of the environment under their care and have put in place severe penalties for individuals responsible for causing harm to the environment. Individuals in Navy will be held to account, and may be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary action in circumstances where Navy activities result in damage to the environment. Accountability is core to our Navy behaviours and is demanded by the Nation.

Navy will continue to pursue sustainable energy opportunities at sea and ashore to increase energy independence, ensure interoperability with our allies and reduce our environmental footprint. I seek your support to find ways to reduce energy consumption wherever practicable.

We have every reason to be proud of our Navy's environmental record. Sound stewardship of our oceans and resources is fundamental to Navy's activities. Wherever we are working, whether ashore or afloat, I look to each and every one of you to ensure good environmental practices are promoted and maintained.

MJ Noonan, AO
Vice Admiral, RAN
Chief of Navy

31 July 2018



NAVY VALUES

HONOUR HONESTY COURAGE INTEGRITY LOYALTY