Marine Pollution Response Arrangements in Victoria – An Industry Perspective

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The Australian System for Marine Pollution Response

National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and Other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (NATPLAN)

State/Territory Oil Spill Contingency Plans (VICPLAN)

Regional Contingency Plans

Local/Port Contingency Plans
Victorian Arrangements

The Department of Transport, Security and Emergency Management Division (SEMD) is the **Statutory Authority** and **Control Agency** for marine pollution incidents that occur in Victorian State Waters.

Functions of the SEMD include:

- Manage Victoria’s obligations to the IGA and NATPLAN
- Review, update, coordinate and administer VICPLAN
- Maintain State response and preparedness functions
The Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan

VICPLAN

- Describes Victoria’s ‘response’ to National Plan arrangements

- Describes Victoria’s requirements under the Inter Governmental Agreement on marine pollution

- Prescribed by state legislation, the Marine Act 1988

- VICPLAN is administered by DOT, SEMD and applies in State Coastal Waters up to 3 nautical miles offshore

- It aims to provide a COORDINATED approach to marine pollution response in the State
Tier 1- small local spills, less than 10 tonnes
Usually associated with ship transfer or bunkering operations

Tier 2- medium spills, 10 to 1000 tonnes
Usually associated with shipping incidents in ports or harbours, could also be from pipelines and off-shore platforms

Tier 3- large spill—greater than 1000 tonnes
Major incident usually involving oil tankers
State Resources

An understanding of the State’s marine pollution response capability may assist in developing your OSCP.

- **State Response Team (SRT)**
  - Whole of Gov approach to oil spill response
  - 150 personnel over next 3yrs to respond to incidents across State
  - CBT in Operational and Incident Management roles

- **Equipment stockpiles**
  - Stockpiles in Melbourne & 8 regional areas
  - Regions provide first strike (supported by central stockpile)
  - State and National resources stored under one roof

- **State is a conduit to State and National resources**
  - NATPLAN arrangements (e.g NRT resources)
  - State emergency management arrangements – the landscape is changing!
The Consultation Process

What does DOT want to know?

- The potential risks to State waters from your activity
- Your capability and capacity to respond to these risks
- Procedures detailing an escalation of response and transfer of control
- A list of stakeholders being consulted within Victoria

What we currently don’t want to know:

- Fine detail – NOPSEMA will review this
- Shipping movements related to activity – this is already addressed under existing arrangements (VicPlan)
Response arrangements for spills that originate within State waters

Oil spill from industry facility/vessel

Can spill be managed in line with operator OSCP?

Yes

Spill managed in accordance with operator OSCP

No

State assumes control under powers of Marine Act (2010) - Govt & Industry response

Can spill be managed in line with operator OSCP?

Yes

No

Is State satisfied with response capability?

Yes

No
Tiered response arrangements for spills that originate outside State waters

Oil spill from industry facility/vessel in Commonwealth waters

Is spill likely to impact State waters?

- Yes
  - Activate pre-agreed arrangements (OSCP)
    - Early notification
    - Appoint EMLO
    - Access to State and Industry resources
    - Industry manage Commonwealth waters
    - Transfer of Control on request of Industry or State

- No
  - Spill managed in accordance with operator OSCP

State assumes control under powers of Marine Act (2010) Govt & Industry response

Department of Transport
Examples of pre-agreed arrangements within OSCP

Notifications
• Early notification to State provides situational awareness
• Appointment of State and industry Emergency Management Liaison Officers (EMLO)

Use of State resources
• Operator and IMT-trained personnel (C’wealth and State waters)
• State and National equipment
• Access to whole of Gov resources through State Emergency Management Team

Transfer of Control
• On Operator or State’s request

Exercises
• Need to test all of the above – consider State participation during exercises
QUESTIONS?