



To the Master

PLASTICS WASHING UP ON BEACHES AROUND HAY POINT / ABBOT POINT

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has observed a recurring issue of plastic water bottles and other plastic debris washing up on beaches near the Hay Point / Abbot Point area. The items recovered suggest that foreign vessels are the primary source of this pollution. While plastic water bottles are the most common items found, other plastic objects such as garbage bag knots and log tags are also frequently retrieved.



We want to emphasise that AMSA expects visiting vessels to respect Australia's pristine coastlines and beaches. Violations of MARPOL and local pollution laws are taken very seriously. The Protection of the Sea (*Prevention of Pollution by Ships*) Act 1983 imposes significant penalties for those responsible for discharging pollution, and AMSA will vigorously pursue all opportunities to enforce the law.

Masters are reminded of their obligations under MARPOL to maintain a Garbage Management Plan (GMP). AMSA expects GMPs to include provisions for managing single-use plastics and incidental garbage on deck, which will be verified during Port State Control (PSC) or other inspections. This is an opportunity for proactive planning to prevent drink bottles and other garbage from polluting our oceans and beaches.

Beyond legal obligations, we urge masters to consider the impact on local communities who share their environment with commercial shipping. We appeal to crew members' sense of shared maritime community and remind them that discarded waste often ends up in someone else's backyard.

We appreciate your cooperation and encourage initiatives to address this unnecessary pollution. Thank you for your understanding and efforts to help us combat this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Williams