



## Company Statement

August 29, 2024

### Submission on the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation

We note that the *International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)* received the required number of ratifications for the *Convention on the International Organization for marine Aids to Navigation* to enter into force on August 24, 2024, and that IALA has now officially changed its status from a *Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)* to an *Intergovernmental Organization (IGO)*.

The M-NAV Group of companies (M-NAV), of which M-NAV Solutions Pty Ltd is an entity, has been an Industrial Member of IALA since 2016. M-NAV completed the membership transfer from an Industrial Member to an Affiliate Member in June 2024 and as such, are one of Australia's first Affiliate Members of the new IGO.

The Shareholders and Directors of M-NAV Solutions Pty Ltd have been associated with IALA since 2010, with involvement in senior roles in the IALA committee structure, as regular attendees and participators at international IALA events and with involvement in training as instructors for M-NAV as an Accredited Training Organisation delivering international IALA training.

We note that Australia is not yet a ratifying state of the *Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation*. We note that in order to become a Member State, Australia must ratify the Convention, and that until they do so, their membership will be transferred to the IGO as an Associate Member.

Australia was a respected IALA National Member with significant contribution to the various IALA committees and therefore the Recommendations, Standards and Guidelines which are used globally for the standardization of AtoN regulations. Australia also has strong historical ties with the management and direction of IALA, including the appointment an Australian as the Secretary General of IALA, between 2009 and 2013.

The *Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)* is Australia's regulatory body for one of the most critical transport sectors, promoting both safety of shipping and protection of the marine environment. AMSA, who primarily represented Australia at IALA, participated and contributed heavily to IALA and have a reputation as an organisation implementing the highest global standards of AtoN delivery. The upcoming IALA AtoN Engineering workshop, being co-hosted by AMSA and IALA in Sydney in October 2024 is a good example of the depth of this cooperation.

We therefore believe it is critical that Australia ratifies the Convention, which will ensure it transitions to a Member State status, therefore allowing Australia participation in important decisions relating to the international regulation of AtoN in the future.

To not ratify, and to remain an Affiliate Member, provides no benefits to Australia and potentially reduces the influence it has on decision making and standard setting. With such a large and complex volume of shipping, sometimes in pristine marine environments, it is our view that Australia has an obligation to participate internationally at the highest level in decision making for AtoN, and in taking leadership in the implementation of best practices.