

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

**Topic:** COAG - Reforms on Maritime Safety

**Senator:** Senator Payne

**Question reference number:** 30

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 November 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

I understand the COAG reforms on maritime safety are due to commence in January. Can you please outline what actions are still required to finalise and implement the reforms in the remaining months, and the expected timeframe?

**Answer:**

The remaining steps to implement a national maritime domestic commercial vessel safety regulator are:

- i. passage of State and Northern Territory Application Laws to apply the Commonwealth legislation establishing the Regulator and enabling the National System to function
  - a. States and the Northern Territory are moving to pass application laws which apply the Commonwealth law as the law of the jurisdiction in order to ensure complete coverage of all commercial vessels. The timing of passage of these application laws is a matter for the individual jurisdictions;
- ii. the development and implementation of regulations, marine orders and delegations
  - a. The development of regulations, marine orders and delegations to support the National System is at an advanced stage. Subject to the agreement of jurisdictions on the regulations and delegations these legislative instruments, together with the Marine Orders, will be finalised prior to commencement of the National System.

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- iii. the continued development and implementation of service delivery arrangements agreed between the National Regulator and its delegates (the state and territory maritime jurisdictions).
  - a. Service delivery arrangements for the National System continue to be developed. National System products, such as compliance enforcement notices, are being tested with jurisdictions and supporting operational guidance is being developed.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Ministerial Council overseeing this reform, the Standing Committee on Transport and Infrastructure (SCOTI), met on 9 November 2012 to consider progress on the reform and confirmed the implementation date of the reform as March 2013.