



**2026**  
**BLUEPRINT FOR A**  
**MARITIME NATION**  
**CONFERENCE**

# Proposed Conference Program\*

\*Program is subject to change as speakers, timing and logistics are confirmed



**MARITIME  
INDUSTRY  
AUSTRALIA  
LIMITED**

2026  
BLUEPRINT FOR A  
MARITIME NATION  
CONFERENCE

**11-13 May 2026**  
**The Westin**  
**Perth, WA**

# INTRODUCING BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

2026 CONFERENCE

CONNECTION

11-13 MAY | PERTH

## CONNECTION

# Smart social — Connect, communicate and grow

**Welcome reception** - Monday evening

**Day 1 plenaries + marketplace exhibitions** - Tuesday

**Gala dinner** - Tuesday evening

**Day 2 plenaries + marketplace exhibitions** - Wednesday

MIAL returns for its first major event in Perth since we hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Maritime Decarbonisation Summit in Western Australia. Now we're up to Summit number six! The vibe may be bolder, the banquet even better, but the central tenet is unchanged: to bring together Australia's maritime industry as a community so we can all share hard won insights, exchanges ideas and progress, and achieve success for our organisations and as a nation.

Over two and a half days, delegates can expect a strong start to the event with a fabulous welcome reception sponsored by Cruise Lines International Association. A gala dinner following Day 1 along with plenty of breaks between plenaries ensures there will be ample time for making and renewing the connections that are so vital to maintaining industry collaboration. This year, we have introduced marketplace stands as an exciting new feature for you to engage directly with key service providers.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

2026 CONFERENCE

**WELCOME**  
12 MAY | PERTH

**WELCOME**

**08:30 - 09:45**

## **Welcome & context — The case for a maritime nation**

### **Welcome to country**

**Political address** - to be announced

**Keynote speaker** - Mark Hammond, Chief of Navy (invited)

**Keynote speaker** - EU Ambassador to Australia (invited)

Australian commercial maritime is an essential facilitator of international and domestic trade, economic prosperity, and national security and resilience. Australia is an island nation with an enormous international and domestic shipping task, a mature offshore oil and gas industry, and the emerging industries of decommissioning and renewable energy. Success in these economically underpinning sectors requires significant maritime capability in terms of skills and assets, which cannot be developed quickly or always imported from other nations. The increasing complexity of the global geopolitical landscape, including within the Indo-Pacific region, is driving an imperative for Australia to expand our sovereign maritime capability across the highly interrelated defence and civil maritime domains.

Our opening speakers will set the scene for the rest of the event.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

2026 CONFERENCE

**PANEL SESSION 1**

12 MAY | PERTH

**PANEL SESSION 1**

**10:45 - 11:30**

## Status overview and the projected need

Australia has a huge shipping task along with a diverse DCV sector providing essential services to ports, tourism, passenger transport, construction, defence, and regional and remote communities. This panel explores the status of our industry from infrastructure, assets, and workforce demographics to see how it stacks up against the projected needs and demands of the future.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Royal Australian Navy
- Australian Border Force
- Centre of Offshore Decommissioning
- Department of Infrastructure Transport Regional Development Communications Sport and the Arts
- More to be announced

### WHY ATTEND

This discussion will be a frank and honest look at the state of industry today coupled with evidence-based ideas on where focus needs to be to ensure Australian shipping can meet the demands on the horizon.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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PANEL SESSION 2

12 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 2

11:30 - 12:15

## Growing Australian maritime — The fundamentals

Past decades have seen attempts at policy change intended to revitalise the Australian shipping industry or reduce supply chain costs and red tape. This panel explores what's needed to build confidence and attract the investment needed to grow Australia's maritime capability - focusing on the required combination of competitive fiscal settings, productive and cooperative workplace relations, and a fit-for-purpose and responsive regulatory environment that balances industry need, with safety and protection of the environment.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Maritime Union Australia
- INPEX
- Norwegian Seafarers Union
- Registry of the Marshall Islands
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Department of Infrastructure Transport Regional Development Communications Sport and the Arts
- More to be announced...

### WHY ATTEND

Learn from our own recent history and that of other nations to better understand what fiscal, regulatory and workplace settings we need to create a level playing field that will ensure continuity, innovation and a more positive, productive workplace culture.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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**PANEL SESSION 3**

12 MAY | PERTH

**PANEL SESSION 3**

**13:15 - 14:00**

## Attraction and retention — Promoting maritime careers

There is a major disconnect between the critical nature of the maritime industry to Australia - with its array of fulfilling and lucrative jobs - and awareness among potential job seekers that a career at sea is even an option. Our industry must compete harder for the best and brightest candidates. This session explores what can be done to attract future generations of seafarers.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Canadian Marine Careers Foundation
- Industry Skills Australia
- Australasian Marine Pilots Institute
- More to be announced

### WHY ATTEND

Discover what's worked in other industries and overseas; useful case studies that tease out how maritime can work together to increase the industry's profile and showcase the full spectrum of opportunities on offer.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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**PANEL SESSION 4**

12 MAY | PERTH

**PANEL SESSION 4**

**14:00 - 14:45**

## Unlocking the power of diversity in the workplace

Explore how greater diversity strengthens maritime workplaces by improving safety, innovation, and workforce resilience. This session examines the barriers limiting participation and highlights practical steps operators can take to “tap into the other 50%,” unlocking new talent pools and expanding employment opportunities across the industry.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Nawaya Maritime
- Woodside
- Royal Australian Navy
- More to be announced

### WHY ATTEND

Gain practical strategies to overcome diversity barriers, insights into the operational benefits of inclusive workplaces, and see what actionable steps can be taken to unlock new talent pools and strengthen the maritime workforce.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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**PRESENTATION**

12 MAY | PERTH

**PRESENTATION**

**15:15 - 15:30**

## **SMarT Program — Live from London**

Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) is the UK Government's primary scheme for developing the next generation of British seafarers. It provides financial support to shipping companies to help cover the cost of training Merchant Navy cadets, including tuition, college phases, and sea-time. By reimbursing a significant portion of eligible training expenses, SMarT makes cadetships more accessible and helps maintain the UK's maritime skills pipeline. Recent Government investment has expanded the programme's capacity, increasing annual cadet intake from around 750 to approximately 1,200 trainees. Running through March 2026, SMarT remains a cornerstone of the UK's strategy to strengthen its maritime workforce and ensure a steady supply of qualified officers for the future.

### **WHY ATTEND**

This is an exciting chance to hear about the UK's flagship initiative to grow its maritime skills pipeline.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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**PANEL SESSION 5**

12 MAY | PERTH

**PANEL SESSION 5**

**15:30 - 16:00**

## Removing barriers — Developing a future ready workforce

The Australian maritime domain has experienced an unprecedented skills shortage in recent years, leading to urgent work by government and the private sector to get a handle on the issue and consider important areas of reform to improve the existing Australian maritime skills development framework. This panel explores the barriers, lessons so far, and possible solutions.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- ERGT (moderator)
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Department of Infrastructure Transport Regional Development Communications Sport and the Arts
- Industry Skills Australia
- More to be announced

### WHY ATTEND

Get a handle on the key blockers preventing greater efficiencies across the system; learn from overseas – maritime training funding models, and proposed government programs for better planning and reform.

# DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

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CLOSING KEYNOTE

12 MAY | PERTH

CLOSING KEYNOTE

16:00 - 16:30

## Richard Meade — Insight, data and analysis

INVITED

Richard Meade is Editor-in-Chief of Lloyd's List Intelligence, one of the world's most trusted sources of maritime data, insight, and analysis. With more than two decades of experience covering global shipping, trade, and maritime policy, he is recognised as a leading voice on the forces shaping the industry. Richard has overseen major investigative projects, digital transformation initiatives, and the expansion of data-driven intelligence services that support safer, more transparent maritime operations. His work regularly informs industry leaders, regulators, and policymakers, and he is a frequent commentator on issues ranging from sanctions compliance to fleet trends and geopolitical risk. Richard will join us in a live-stream from the UK to offer his sharp analytical perspective and deep sector knowledge.



# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

2026 CONFERENCE

WELCOME  
13 MAY | PERTH

WELCOME

09:00 - 09:15

## A defining moment — Fueled by tension

**Angela Gillham, MIAL CEO**

Reflections on the MIAL Maritime Decarbonisation Summit journey and the current state of play

MIAL's 6th Maritime Decarbonisation Summit occurs at a defining moment for global shipping. Uncertainty around the International Maritime Organization's Net-Zero Framework - with any decision on adoption now delayed until late 2026 at the earliest - has paused the assumed trajectory of global shipping regulations supporting the climate transition. Meanwhile, escalating tensions in the Middle East have underscored the vulnerability of global energy supply chains. By contrast, the Summit focuses on a more optimistic pathway: Australian innovation. From clean fuels to digital optimisation and port-energy integration, Australia's maritime sector is demonstrating how practical, economically sustainable, industry-led solutions can accelerate decarbonisation while strengthening supply chain resilience and diversifying fuel sources.

# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

2026 CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE

13 MAY | PERTH

KEYNOTE

09:15 - 09:45

## Professor Tony Haymet — Science at the forefront

MIAL welcomes the Chief Scientist of Australia as keynote speaker. Professor Tony Haymet is one of the world's leading oceanographers and a distinguished science leader whose career spans Australia, the United States, and the global maritime community. An emeritus distinguished professor of oceanography, he has held major research and leadership roles, including Chief of CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research and Director and Vice-Chancellor of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Professor Haymet has authored more than 170 peer-reviewed papers and co-founded major marine research initiatives and ocean-robotics ventures, strengthening global observing systems and advancing marine innovation. Today, as Australia's Chief Scientist, he continues to shape national and international marine science strategy.



# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

2026 CONFERENCE

PANEL SESSION 1

13 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 1

09:45 - 10:30

## Global regulations — The prognosis for NZF

This panel examines the global outlook in the wake of last year's IMO negotiations and what this resulting uncertainty means for the Australian industry. While international regulatory pathways continue to evolve, Australia is progressing practical initiatives that support decarbonisation, including green shipping corridors, port strategies, alternative fuel readiness, and collaborative research across government and industry.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
- HAMR Energy
- Pilbara Ports Authority
- Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation
- Rio Tinto
- Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

### WHY ATTEND

Learn how stakeholders in Australia have continued the momentum, investing in innovation, and preparing infrastructure despite regulatory uncertainty to better position the sector to contribute to global emissions reduction while remaining competitive.

# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

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PANEL SESSION 2

13 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 2

11:00 - 11:45

## Green and digital corridors in the APAC region

Explore in detail the evolving role of green and digital shipping corridors across the Asia–Pacific region. These initiatives have emerged as practical pathways to deploy new technologies, coordinate infrastructure investment, and test scalable solutions; and demonstrate how coordinated regional action can help de-risk early projects, strengthen supply chains, and support the transition to low- and zero-emissions shipping.

### INVITED PANELLISTS

- Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade (moderator)
- Maritime Port Authority of Singapore
- Nawaya Maritime
- New Zealand stakeholder
- Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
- Global Maritime Forum

### WHY ATTEND

Industry leaders, ports, and policymakers discuss lessons from live initiatives, opportunities for expanding corridor networks, and how digital collaboration can support transparency, efficiency, and emissions tracking.

# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

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**PITCH FEST**  
13 MAY | PERTH

**PITCH FEST**

**11:45 - 13:00**

## **Pitch Fest** — **Start-ups, innovation, judges & prizes**

This fast-paced session gives start-up entrepreneurs the chance to pitch to an industry panel their bold new ideas and technologies that could accelerate maritime decarbonisation. The winning pitch receives an annual MIAL Associate Membership that allows them to connect with industry networks and collaboration opportunities.

### **FEATURED START-UPS**

- Birra Technologies
- CounterCurrent
- Oceon
- More to be announced

### **WHY ATTEND**

Explore concepts at the very start of their journey to market from clean fuels and energy systems to digital tools and operational innovations - exciting start-up ventures that will pique your interest.

# DAY 2 6<sup>TH</sup> MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

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DECARB DEEP DIVES

13 MAY | PERTH

DECARB DEEP DIVES

14:00 - 15:15

## Specialist seminars — Experts on key issues

### DDD1 Carbon Capture and Storage

1400 - 1430

Update on technology and application in the transition to new fuels

### DDD2 AI for shipping efficiency

1430 - 1500

Combining operational oceanography and AI tools

### DDD3 Climate disclosure

1500 - 1530

How to fit a ship-shaped peg in a mine-shaped hole

### DEEP DIVE EXPERTS

- Low Emission Technology Australia
- University of New South Wales
- Sustainable Edge

### WHY ATTEND

These short, sharp sessions are a chance to absorb insights from experts at the bleeding edge of global decarbonisation efforts.

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**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT [admin@mial.com.au](mailto:admin@mial.com.au)**



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