



2026
BLUEPRINT FOR A
MARITIME NATION
CONFERENCE

Conference Program*

*Updated 22 April 2026



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, 11 May

Day 1 plenaries + marketplace exhibitions - Tuesday, 12 May

Gala dinner - Tuesday evening

Day 2 plenaries + marketplace exhibitions - Wednesday, 13 May

MIAL returns for its first major event in Perth since we hosted our 3rd 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.

BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1 PLENARIES

DAY 1

12 MAY | PERTH

DAY 1 - 12 MAY

0830 - 0855	Registration and Morning Coffee
0855 - 0910	Opening Address: Angela Gillham, MIAL CEO & Welcome to Country: Barry Winmar
0910 - 0920	Govt Address: Peter Woronzow, Director General, Dept of Transport and Major Infrastructure
0920 - 0940	Keynote Speaker: Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet
0940 - 1000	Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Parker, Adjunct Fellow, UNSW Canberra
1000 - 1030	Morning Tea, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1030 - 1120	Panel 1: Status Overview and the Projected Need
1120 - 1210	Panel 2: Getting the Fundamentals Right to Grow the Australian Maritime Industry
1210 - 1300	Lunch, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1300 - 1350	Panel 3: Attraction and Retention - Promoting Maritime Careers
1350 - 1430	Panel 4: Equity, Safety and Profitability
1430 - 1500	Afternoon Tea, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1500 - 1515	Presentation: UK SMaRT
1515 - 1600	Panel 5: Removing Barriers to Skills Development and Developing a Future Ready Workforce
1600 - 1630	Keynote Speaker: Richard Meade, Editor-in-Chief, Lloyd's List Intelligence
1630 - 1635	Closing remarks: Angela Gillham, MIAL CEO
1800 - 1900	Pre-Dinner Drinks Served in Haven Lounge Ground Floor
1900 - 2200	Gala Dinner in the Ballroom

BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 2 PLENARIES

DAY 2

13 MAY | PERTH

DAY 2 - 13 MAY

0800 - 0830	Registration and Morning Coffee
0900 - 0915	Opening: Angela Gillham, MIAL CEO
0915 - 0935	Keynote Speaker: Professor Tony Haymet, Chief Scientist of Australia (livestream)
0935 - 1030	Panel 1: Global regulations - The Prognosis for NZF - State of Play and a Look Ahead to 2050
1030 - 1100	Morning Tea, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1100 - 1145	Panel 2: The Ongoing Role of Green and Digital Corridors in the APAC Region
1145 - 1245	Pitch Fest
1245 - 1345	Lunch, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1345 - 1415	Decarbonisation Deep Dive 1: Carbon Capture and Storage
1415 - 1445	Decarbonisation Deep Dive 2: AI for Shipping Efficiency
1445 - 1505	Afternoon Tea, Networking + Marketplace Exhibitions
1505 - 1535	Decarbonisation Deep Dive 3: Climate Disclosure
1535 - 1605	Decarbonisation Deep Dive 4: Fuel certification – lessons learned, and new pathways found
1605 - 1615	Closing remarks: Angela Gillham, MIAL CEO

DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

2026 CONFERENCE

WELCOME
12 MAY | PERTH

WELCOME

08:55 - 10:00

Welcome & context — The case for a maritime nation

Opening address

Welcome to country

WA Government address

Keynote speakers

Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet
Jennifer Parker, Adjunct Fellow, UNSW Canberra (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.

DAY 1 BLUEPRINT FOR A MARITIME NATION

2026 CONFERENCE

PANEL SESSION 1

12 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 1

10:30 - 11:20

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.

PANELLISTS

- Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO, CSC, RAN (Rtd) (moderator)
- Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet
- Rean Gilbert, General Manager, Centre for Offshore Decommissioning Australia
- Ben Wardle, Executive General Manager, Austal
- Commander Chris Holzheimer, Australian Border Force

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

11:20 - 12:10

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.

PANELLISTS

- Angela Gillham, CEO, Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (moderator)
- David Sproule, Head of Employee & Industrial Relations, Woodside
- Andrew Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Department of Infrastructure Transport Regional Development Communications Sport and the Arts
- Jake Field, National Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia
- Dewan Gaurav, Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Registry of the Marshall Islands

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

13:00 - 13:50

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.

PANELLISTS

- Teresa Lloyd, Chair, Australian Maritime College (moderator)
- Nick Rodgers, Senior People and Culture Business Partner, Svitzer
- Stephanie Aubourg, Chair, Canadian Marine Careers Foundation (CMCF)
- Sue-anne Munckton, Director, Sky Careers Australia
- Josephine Clarke, President, Australasian Marine Pilots Institute (AMPI)
- Keith Wilks, CEO, Southern Ports

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.

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PANEL SESSION 4

12 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 4

13:50 - 14:30

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% and beyond, unlocking new talent pools and expanding employment opportunities across the industry.

PANELLISTS

- Sarah Cerchè, Director Workplace Relations, Governance and Policy, Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (moderator)
- Eldine Glees, Director, Nawayaya Maritime
- Captain Ken Burleigh, Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling
- Pia Van Wyngaard, WA State Representative, WISTA
- Clontarf Foundation representative

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

15:00 - 15:15

UKSMarT — 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

15:15 - 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.

PANELLISTS

- Stefan Vis, Learning, Research & Development Leader, ERGT (moderator)
- Kaylene Dale, CEO, Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Mandi Mees, Head Maritime Skills, Industry Skills Australia
- Garry Smith, General Manager People & Capability, INPEX
- Stephen Hurd, Centre for Seafaring and Maritime Operations, Australian Maritime College

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

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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 6TH 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 6TH MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

2026 CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE

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KEYNOTE

09:15 - 09:35

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 6TH MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

2026 CONFERENCE

PANEL SESSION 1

13 MAY | PERTH

PANEL SESSION 1

09:35 - 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.

PANELLISTS

- Clare Grandison, Senior Policy Advisor, Sustainability & Industry Transformation (moderator)
- Dr Shahrin Osman, Regional Head of Maritime Advisory, DNV
- Donald Fraser, Commercial Manager, HAMR Energy
- Ash Puri, Customer Manager Energy and Chemicals, Pilbara Ports Authority
- Matthew Garland, Senior Project Manager, Fortescue

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 6TH 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.

PANELLISTS

- Leslie Williams, Director, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade (moderator)
- Eldine Glees, Director, Nawayaya Maritime
- Augustus Yip, Assistant Director, Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
- Anna Rosenberg, Project Manager Shipping Decarbonisation, Global Maritime Forum
- Yikai Yao, Director (Marine Services), Maritime and Port Authority Singapore
- Taylor Wamberg, Regional Advisory Lead, Lloyd's Register

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 6TH MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

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PITCH FEST
13 MAY | PERTH

PITCH FEST

11:45 - 12:45

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
- Safe Marine

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 6TH MARITIME DECARBONISATION SUMMIT

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DECARB DEEP DIVES

13 MAY | PERTH

DECARB DEEP DIVES

13:45 - 15:45

Specialist seminars — Experts on key issues

DDD1 Carbon Capture and Storage

1345 - 1415

Update on technology and application in the transition to new fuels

DDD2 AI for shipping efficiency

1415 - 1445

Combining operational oceanography and AI tools

DDD3 Climate disclosure

1505 - 1535

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

DDD4 Fuel certification

1535 - 1605

Lessons learned, and new pathways found

DEEP DIVE EXPERTS

- Nathan Bongers, Low Emission Technology Australia
- Associate Professor Shane Keating, University of New South Wales
- Melissa Grove and Kathleen Makale, Sustainable Edge Accounting & Advisory
- Dr David Evans, Defence Science & Technology

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



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