

Ensuring environmentally responsible Antarctic operations

To ensure Australia's activities in Antarctica are environmentally responsible, the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) has developed an internationally certified (ISO 14001) Environmental Management System (EMS). In the 2004-05 Antarctic season the effectiveness of this system will be audited at Davis and Mawson stations by Phil Crosby of NCSI (NATA Certification Services International). Mr Crosby will be assisted by AAD operation's safety and environment advisor Shaun Walsh and EMS co-ordinator Leslie Frost.

The audit aims to review the operation of EMS in Antarctica and identify ways to improve the system. The team will meet with the station leaders at Davis and Mawson to review environmental management procedures, incident reporting, emergency preparedness and policies; codes and requirements for waste management, energy use and physical



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The operation of the Environmental Management System at Davis Station (above) and Mawson, will be reviewed this year.

disturbance; hazardous materials management; and field activities.

Prior to departure, Mr Crosby will participate in expeditioner training and observe cargo operations at Macquarie Wharf. During the voyage he will observe shipping and transport operations; and at Davis, cargo handling, resupply and refuelling operations. His observations will help improve activities that are already performed conscientiously and to a high standard.

—LESLIE FROST
EMS Co-ordinator, AAD

The 105 m *Oceanic Viking* and her crew will replace the polar ships, *Aurora Australis* and *Southern Supporter*, in the patrol of the Southern Ocean for illegal fishing.

The vessel, armed with twin .50 calibre machine guns, will help Customs and Fisheries officers conduct year-round armed patrols of Australian waters surrounding the remote Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, where illegal fishing vessels regularly target Patagonian toothfish.

The ship was supplied by P&O Maritime Services after a successful tender to Customs, and is capable of operating throughout Australia's exclusive economic zone.

The *Oceanic Viking* will patrol the Southern Ocean for illegal fishing.

Its acquisition comes after the Government's commitment to a two-year armed patrol program in December 2003. Funding for the program of \$47.8m in 2004-05 and \$41.4m in 2005-06 was confirmed in the Federal Budget earlier this year.

Customs and Fisheries officers are now engaged in specialised training to operate the ship in the Southern Ocean.

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS



Oceanic Viking to patrol Southern Ocean