

MEDIA RELEASE

1998 International Year of the Ocean

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SYDNEY TO HOBART RACE: COST OF RESCUES

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority today released details of the civil resources and civil costs associated with the Sydney to Hobart yacht race rescues.

Civil aircraft -- both fixed-wing and helicopters --flew about 500 hours in the rescues. About 45 civil and defence aircraft and three surface vessels were engaged by AMSA in the rescue efforts, in which 55 sailors were saved.

The cost of the civil resources employed was approximately \$650,000.

The above estimate does not include the cost of assistance provided by Defence aircraft (RAAF and RAN) and the Navy frigate HMAS Newcastle.

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