



MEDIA RELEASE

1998 International Year of the Ocean

Wednesday 30 December 1998

immediate use

AMSA EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority Chief Executive, Clive Davidson today thanked all participants involved in Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race search and rescue activities over the past three days.

Mr Davidson, on behalf of the Authority, expressed his sincere condolences to the families of those that lost their lives.

He said the AMSA's first priority will be to assist the coroner's inquiry into the deaths of the four sailors and two others missing at sea.

"We will also be undertaking our standard post-event debrief both internally and with those external organisations who provided search and rescue assets," he said.

The debrief will be carried out within a week.

The Authority will also assist race organiser, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, with its review and evaluation of the race as announced at a media conference in Hobart yesterday by the CYC Commodore.

Mr Davidson said the degree of involvement in the CYC review by AMSA will depend on the terms of reference to be announced soon by review committee Chairman, Mr Peter Bush.

Further information: David Gray AMSA-PR Tel: 0418 487794