

*Queensland Branch*

The Queensland Branch of the Nautical Institute held its Premier event for 2013 on Thursday 10 October when a diverse range of speakers addressed an audience of 36 attendees on a range of subjects under the IMO theme 'Sustainable Development: IMO's contribution beyond RIO+20'.

Following a welcome from the Chairman of the Queensland Branch – Captain William Burton and our co-sponsor of the event from Norton Rose Fulbright, Special Council – Ms Michelle Taylor, the audience was treated with a presentation of the World Maritime Day message from the Secretary- General of the IMO, Mr. Koji Sekimizu.

The central part of his message was that as the worlds' only reliable, global, cost-effective and energy-efficient mass transportation method for energy, materials, foods and industrial products, maritime transport is central to sustainable development. The maritime transportation system itself must ensure that its development is also sustainable.

Technology saved the day when our first speaker, Senator Larissa Waters was unable to be in attendance on the day. The Senator agreed to deliver her presentation by Skype from Western Australia. Senator Larissa Waters is the Greens Senator for Queensland. Senator Waters had been an Environmental lawyer for 9 years prior to being elected into the Senate in 2010.

Technology also played its part when her speech was interrupted by signal drop out towards the end. However she was able to inform the audience of her concerns with planned large-scale port development along the Queensland coast affecting the Great Barrier Reef and the rest of the environment.

We were then addressed by the Regional Harbour Master for the Gladstone Region, Capt. Mike Lutze. Mike detailed the massive and accelerated expansion that has been taking place in the port of Gladstone, from dredging to building new terminals to cope with the expansion of the coal trade and three new LNG export terminals. A major challenge has been issues associated with a significant growth in port traffic transporting workers and materials; primarily due to the three new LNG terminals are being constructed on an island. Mike went onto explain how this expansion was being conducted safely and with full regard for the environment.

After a short break our next speaker was introduced.

Albert Sedlmayer is a Naval Architect. His subject covered the concept of using minimal infrastructure for moving bulk cargoes from the mine to a closed stockpile, into a shuttle then to an offshore facility called a "Floating Harbour Transshipper" and finally to the export ship. The process involves fully enclosing or covering the cargo from mine to ship to ensure zero dust emissions, and being environmentally friendly by not having a major port foot print, where little to no dredging is required.

Sitting beside the Great Barrier Reef, and a major shipping route for Queensland products, we were fortunate to have a practicing licenced Coastal Pilot, Capt. Welwyn Gamble, available to inform the audience of how shipping has been safely navigated through the narrow and shallow confines of this ecological marvel. Captain Gamble also informed the audience on how the Service was continually re-inventing itself to provide safer management and systems to ensure the sustainability of shipping that are transiting the Great Barrier Reef.

To bookend the seminar was Rebecca Hoare of Norton Rose Fulbright. Rebecca provides detailed advice to clients during project start up and construction phase to ensure that all required environmental planning approvals are identified and obtained. Rebecca also provides ongoing operational and compliance management advice.

Following the recent World Heritage Committee report on the state of the Great Barrier Reef, Rebecca informed us of the Federal and State governments response and plans for future action.

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Capt. William Burton then wrapped up the seminar and thanked all for attending. He invited all to enjoy the light refreshments provided by Norton Rose Fulbright. During this session we found that attendees were impressed with the speakers and the range of subjects covered.

NI Qld branch thanks wholeheartedly the professional team at Norton Rose Fulbright for the use of their premises and provision of equipment for the success of this IMO WMD seminar.



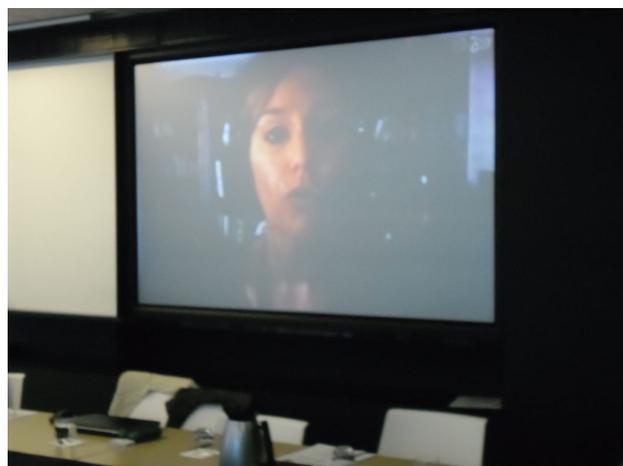
Seminar room



Seminar attendees



Secretary General Koji Sekimizu



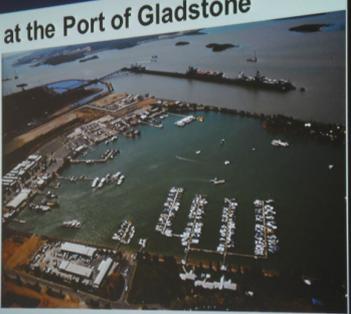
Senator Larissa Waters

Transport and Main Roads

### Marine Activity at the Port of Gladstone

Current operations:

- Over 4,000 trade ship movements annually at existing facilities
- Over 400 commercial vessels operating in the port
- More than 20,000 registered recreational vessels in the Gladstone Region



12.5% of the population own a Recreational Boat in the Gladstone Region - Average for the rest of the state is 6%

Gladstone port use