



Media Release

30 August 2012

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION IN INDONESIA

Early yesterday morning (Wednesday), RCC Australia received a call from a person on board a vessel requesting assistance.

Through discussions with the person, RCC Australia was able to obtain the vessel's location to be approximately 8nm southwest of Java, Indonesia. The person also reported there were 150 people on board and the vessel had engine trouble.

Indonesian search and rescue authority, BASARNAS coordinated a search for the vessel throughout the day on Wednesday, utilising one rescue helicopter and two surface vessels. A helicopter search did not recover any signs of the vessel in the reported area.

RCC Australia is assisting BASARNAS in the search and rescue operation.

Later that afternoon, RCC Australia provided BASARNAS with an updated likely position based on drift modelling for the vessel and tasked the APL *Bahrain*, which had responded to an earlier broadcast to shipping, to attend the broader search area.

At approximately 3.30am AEST on Thursday, the Master of the APL *Bahrain* reported they had sighted people in the water in the search area. The APL *Bahrain* is attempting to recover survivors.

A second merchant vessel, bulk carrier *Gwendolin*, which had also been searching overnight, is moving to the area where survivors have been sighted to assist in the search and recovery operation.

Two Indonesian search vessels, Rescue Boat 201 and Maritime Police Vessel KP *Enggano*, are heading to the area.

HMAS Maitland is expected to arrive on scene later today. A Defence aircraft will depart Learmonth and a Customs aircraft will depart Christmas Island at first light this morning.

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