



## Media Release

4:00pm AEST, 30 August 2012

### SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION CONTINUES IN INDONESIA

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is assisting Indonesia's search and rescue agency, BASARNAS, in a search and rescue operation west of Indonesia.

HMAS *Maitland* has arrived on scene to assist the remaining three merchant vessels and a Defence aircraft with search operations in an updated search area, as determined by AMSA based on drift modelling.

Crews on scene have confirmed additional sightings of debris, but there are no further reports of survivors or bodies being recovered.

BASARNAS has advised the six survivors will be taken to Merak, Indonesia for medical attention.

Another Defence P3 Orion aircraft is due on scene later this afternoon.

An Indonesian search vessel, Rescue Boat 201 is due on scene at 5pm AEST and has a medical crew on board.

The search and rescue operation will continue throughout the day with the focus on recovering survivors.

AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC Australia) received a call from a person on board the vessel early Wednesday morning.

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

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.

On Wednesday 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.

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