



## Media Release

6:00pm 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.

Customs Dash 8 aircraft has made a number of sightings of survivors. The HMAS *Maitland*, which was the nearest vessel, has recovered 16 people. There are three merchant vessels on scene which are assisting in the search for survivors.

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

Earlier today, six survivors were recovered by merchant vessel APL *Bahrain*.

The search and rescue operation will continue through until tomorrow 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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