

INTRODUCTION: by Alistair J. Gilmour, Executive Officer, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil, (the National Plan) has been in operation since 1973. It is a joint Commonwealth/State initiative with assistance from the oil industry to combat coastal oil spills.

Supplements to the National Plan are prepared for each State e.g. The Queensland Supplement to the National Plan. However, there is no plan yet in place to combat oil pollution of the reef, although 'REEFPLAN' is currently being drawn up to meet this need. This, of course, relates only to oil.

It may also be necessary to mount a response in the event of a spill of other hazardous cargoes.

There remains, however, the need to focus on the provision of scientific advice in combatting the spill to minimal environmental impact, and garnering scientific information on the impact of the spill.

The workshop is designed to address these aspects and the need to be able to respond. Three elements need consideration:

- . evaluation of the hazard
- . criteria for response
- . how to organise the response.

I trust that the workshop will produce a useful statement of where and how we ought best proceed and that such a statement ought be relevant to all interests represented here today.