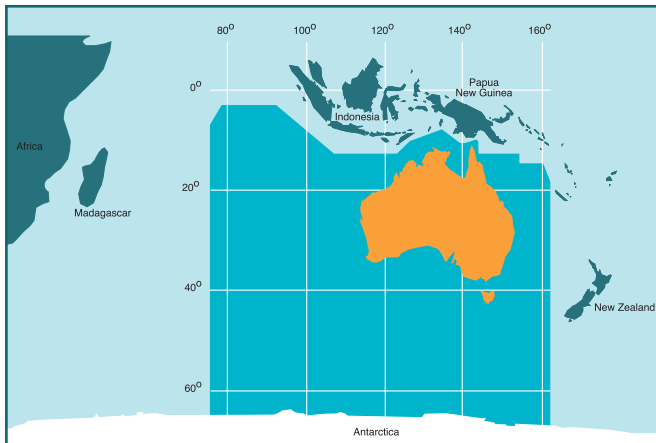




## Emergency Response Centre

This state-of-the-art Emergency Response Centre (ERC) is the culmination of a two-year project made possible by an Australian Government \$74 million funding package in support of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA's) search and rescue (SAR) role. AMSA is responsible for both aviation and maritime SAR in a region that encompasses 53 million square kilometres or one tenth of the world's surface.



AMSA has created an ERC with upgrades of computer and communications systems.

The Centre has an improved capability to coordinate multi-disciplinary operations. Importantly, it provides more effective communication and coordination with external partners, including the emergency services and other agencies.

The ERC has now advanced from a "paper-based" centre, in which information was plotted on paper charts and on whiteboards – visible only to those in the immediate area and confined by the design of the chart or board – to an electronic centre in which information is stored in systems available to all operators with choice in the manner in which it is used.

### Capability of the ERC

The ERC deals with approximately 10,000 incidents a year (beacon activations, searches, medical evacuations) - there are approximately 500 search specific tasks and on average 300 lives saved every year.

The Centre is responsible for:

- ▶ Conducting SAR for missing ships and aircraft.
- ▶ Assisting Police and Defence for SAR.
- ▶ Providing maritime safety information in the Australian area.
- ▶ Operating the Cospas-Sarsat system for satellite detection of distress beacons.
- ▶ Operating the AUSREP ship reporting system keeping a safety watch on participating ships, and thereby a picture of shipping well-placed to respond to SAR.
- ▶ Assisting efforts to ensure ships passing through Torres Strait have qualified pilots embarked, to enhance navigational safety.
- ▶ Vessel tracking.

