



I. FOREWORD

The Maritime Industry is vital in Papua New Guinea, connecting our nation to the global economy and facilitating the movement of goods and resources that are important for our growth and prosperity. Within this sector, pilotage plays a critical, yet often unseen, role. The safe and efficient navigation of vessels into and out of our declared and compulsory pilotage areas is paramount, not only for economic stability but also for the protection of our marine environment and the safety of lives at sea.

Over the past decade, our maritime industry has faced growing demands for pilotage services. The growth of businesses in the mining and petroleum sector, increased industrial activities such as importing heavy machinery for infrastructure development, and the surge in tourism with luxury cruise ships entering PNG's waters are all clear examples of activities that have contributed to the increased need for effective pilotage services. As these economic activities increase, so do the risks associated with pilotage.

It is our duty to ensure that our regulatory framework is updated regularly to align these developments, providing effective pilotage operations. This concept paper for the draft Merchant Shipping (Pilotage) Regulations 2022 marks a significant milestone in our pursuit of this objective.

The existing *Merchant Shipping (Pilotage) Regulation 2006*, while serving its purpose for a time, has become inadequate to address the complexities and challenges of today's maritime environment. This draft Regulation seeks to address those gaps, incorporating international best practices and ensuring that our pilotage standards are aligned with global benchmarks, such as the ISPO Code & Manual.

This legislative reform is not simply about updating regulations; it is also about safeguarding our ships, preventing marine pollution, and ensuring the highest standards of safety and efficiency in all declared and compulsory pilotage areas, respectively. It is about providing clear guidelines for pilots, pilotage service providers, and all stakeholders involved in this critical aspect of the maritime industry.

Furthermore, this concept paper is the starting point for a crucial dialogue with our stakeholders. We recognize that the success of these regulations rests on the active participation and collaboration of all parties involved. Consequently, we are committed to a transparent and inclusive consultation process, and we value the feedback and insights that our stakeholders will provide.

Through this consultation, we aim to:

- **Modernize our regulatory framework:** Ensuring it aligns with international standards and best practices.
- **Enhance safety:** Minimizing risks to vessels, personnel, and the marine environment.
- **Promote efficiency:** Streamlining pilotage operations to facilitate trade and economic growth.
- **Foster collaboration:** Building strong partnerships between the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA), pilotage service providers, shipping companies, and other stakeholders.

The NMSA has dedicated significant effort to developing this draft Regulation, drawing on a gap analysis with legislation from other Commonwealth countries in the Australasian region and incorporating ISPO standards. The draft Regulations addresses critical areas including, but not limited to:

- Licensing and training requirements for pilots
- Operational protocols for pilotage service providers



- Safety management systems
- Fees and charges
- Enforcement and penalties

Despite all the challenges faced over the years, in the maritime industry regarding Pilotage, the NMSA through the Pilotage Appraisal Committee (PAC), has and remains committed to continuous improvement in regulating Pilotage in PNG.

I encourage all stakeholders to carefully review this concept paper and provide your valuable feedback through the designated channels. Your input will play a vital role in shaping the final draft of the *Merchant Shipping (Pilotage) Regulations 2022*.

Together, we can create a maritime industry that is safe, efficient, and sustainable, contributing to the economic prosperity of Papua New Guinea for generations to come.

Yours Sincerely,

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Mr. Paul Unas
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
National Maritime Safety Authority