



## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP 6/9/7

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
Maritime Administrations

**DATE:** 25 March 2020

**CIRCULAR:** 20/23

**SUBJECT:** Invite comments on the Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) Membership Agreement

### 1. Background

The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders 2019 communique agreed to develop a *Regional Mechanism and Action Plan* to address oil spills in order to strengthen institutional arrangements to secure our Blue Pacific, taking into account the review of Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2013 (PACPLAN 2013).

The Parties to the Noumea Convention at COP15 and 29th SPREP Meeting endorsed the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019 (PACPLAN 2019) as the framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills in the Pacific islands region.

### 2. Draft OSRL Membership Agreement

Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) is the largest international industry-funded cooperative which exists to respond to oil spills wherever in the world they occur, by providing preparedness, response and subsea well source control services. OSRL are located across 12 locations around the world with the nearest to the Pacific region in Singapore and Perth Australia.

OSRL, SPREP with support from Maritime NZ (MNZ) and funding from New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) have agreed a mechanism to efficiently increase oil spill response capability for PACPLAN Pacific island participants i.e. the 21 Pacific island countries and territories. This new mechanism will enhance the capability that exists at national level and complement other resources that are made available through intergovernmental arrangements (PACPLAN), by providing each of the PICTs with direct access to OSRL's global oil spill response resources.

With the financial support from MFAT SPREP plans to join OSRL as an Associate Member and will pay three (3) year's annual Membership subscription fee directly to OSRL. On agreeing to the terms of the Membership and signing the Associate Agreement as a "Mobilising Party", each PICT will have direct independent access to OSRL's response services. In the event of an oil spill incident or imminent threat of an incident, the affected PICT can call upon OSRL to respond through their nominated authority. The Mobilising Party will pay OSRL directly for response services based on OSRL's standard membership rate. Note that up to 5 Technical Advisors are free of charge for up to 5 days on site.



### 3. Comments on the draft Membership Agreement sought

I would like to invite comments on the revised draft OSRL Membership Agreement documented by email to Anthony Talouli [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org) no later than 24th April 2020. Each PICTs nominated authority (Mobilising Party) name, designation, mailing address and contact details are outlined in Schedule 4. Please also check that it is correct.

Comments received will be consolidated and incorporated into a final OSRL Membership Agreement to be signed by SPREP. Each PICT will be invited to sign the Associate Agreement as a “Mobilising Party” to have direct access to OSRL’s response services by May, 2020. A workshop for all PICTs to share a greater level of detail on the services, mobilization, response procedures and processes, roles and responsibilities of each party is tentatively scheduled for the 30 July 2020 in the Solomon Islands.

I look forward to receiving your comments by the 24th April 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu  
**Director General**

Attachments:

- 1) Draft OSRL Membership Agreement
- 2) SPREP-OSRL Membership Agreement Overview Presentation