



Australian
BORDER FORCE

FACT BOOK 2020

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Michael Outram APM ABF Commissioner



Michael Outram APM was sworn in as the Commissioner of the Australian Border Force (ABF) on 14 May 2018.

Michael joined the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service on 9 March 2015 and was sworn in as the ABF's Deputy Commissioner Operations on 1 July 2015.

Michael has 39 years of experience in a diverse range of law enforcement organisations and settings, including community policing, intelligence operations, protective and major event security, public order management, the investigation of serious crime and border management.

Between 2011 and 2015, as an Assistant Commissioner with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Michael was responsible for the AFP's national protective security function. During this time Michael led the AFP's planning and support for the G20 Summit in Brisbane and the AFP's response to the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 over the Ukraine.

Michael joined the AFP from the Australian Crime Commission (ACC). In 2004 Michael was appointed as the ACC's Executive Director, Serious and Organised Crime and he was responsible for the national and international investigative and intelligence functions of the Agency.

Michael's career in Australia started in 2002 at the Independent Commission Against Corruption in New South Wales. His migration to Australia followed a secondment in 2000, to the New South Wales Police Service. He was seconded from the London Metropolitan Police Service in the UK, where he joined as a police cadet in 1980 and served as a police officer from 1982.

Michael was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2014 in recognition of his outstanding service in law enforcement. In 2014 he was also awarded a Master of Business & Technology degree by the University of New South Wales and a university prize for academic achievement. In April 2018, Michael completed the Harvard Kennedy School executive education programme 'Leadership in Crises', which he attended having won a Sir James Wolfensohn Public Service Scholarship.

Michael will return from leave on 4 January 2021, until which time Justine Saunders APM is acting as the ABF Commissioner.

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Justine Saunders APM

Deputy Commissioner National Operations



Justine Saunders APM joined the ABF on 29 October 2018. In June 2020, Justine commenced her current role of Deputy Commissioner ABF Operations (now National Operations). In this role, Justine has responsibility for providing high-level strategic direction across all operational activities around the border. This includes the management of travellers, goods and cargo, as well as immigration detention, enforcement and maritime operations.

Prior to commencing in this role, Justine was Deputy Commissioner ABF Support and had responsibility for delivering strategic capabilities to bring to affect the ABF'S operational outcomes.

Justine brings to the Deputy Commissioner position a significant breadth and depth of experience from across law enforcement and government, and has consistently demonstrated her ability to handle complex operational, capability and policy challenges with success.

Justine is an experienced leader who has the ability to drive and guide successful change through collaboration, consultation and negotiation. Prior to joining the ABF, Justine was a member of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for 29 years and a member of the senior executive since 2005.

Previously as the Chief Police Officer of the ACT, Justine ensured ACT Policing delivered on government and community expectations in terms of operational delivery, whilst also driving and implementing significant cultural and capability reforms aimed at developing a sustainable and effective policing service for the future.

As an Assistant Commissioner in the broader AFP, Justine had responsibility for managing strategic relationships with key government stakeholders and law enforcement partners domestically and internationally, and had portfolio responsibilities for strategic policy, governance, corporate communications and support to the Commissioner as Chief of Staff.

Justine holds a Master of Leadership and Management (Policing), Bachelor of Social Sciences (Policing Studies) with Distinction and Graduate Certificate in Applied Management.

Justine is acting as the ABF Commissioner until Michael Outram APM returns from leave on 4 January 2021.

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Kylie Rendina

Acting Deputy Commissioner Operational Strategy and Coordination Group



Kylie Rendina is acting Deputy Commissioner for Operational Strategy and Coordination Group.

While acting Deputy Commissioner, Kylie Rendina is responsible for providing strategic and operational planning, workforce management and civil maritime, technical and surveillance capability support to achieve ABF outcomes.

Substantively, as the Assistant Commissioner of Operational Coordination and Planning Command (OCP), Kylie manages the Australian Border Operations Centre (ABOC), the framework for the ABF's major crisis and incident response, the ABF's national targeting capability and ABF's strategic and operational planning and reporting functions. This has resulted in her leading much of ABF's response to COVID-19, including prevention and preparedness in Northern Australia and repatriation efforts.

Kylie is an experienced leader in innovation, capability management and operations with years spent across private and public sectors in the fields of law enforcement and technology. Before the ABF, Kylie was a senior leader in a technology organisation, leading on service innovation and improvement and prior to that as a Federal Agent within the Australian Federal Police, leading complex multi-jurisdictional and counter terrorism matters as well as major law reform. Kylie holds a Master of Business Administration Executive, a Diploma of Policing, and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice.

Dwayne Freeman

Incoming Deputy Commissioner Operational Strategy and Coordination Group

On 11 December 2020, Commissioner Outram announced that Dwayne Freeman had been engaged to the role Deputy Commissioner Operational Strategy and Coordination and will commence on Monday, 11 January 2021.

Dwayne is experienced in dealing with difficult and diverse roles in his time as the Chief Executive Officer Abbot Point Operations for Adani Australia and will be a tremendous asset for the ABF in navigating through the reform and implementation of our new operating model. Dwayne will commence in the role in the new year based in Brisbane, but will be spending time in all our regions, including a period in Canberra during January.

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Dr Bradley Armstrong PSM

Group Manager Customs



Brad Armstrong commenced in his current role on 1 July 2019.

Prior to his current appointment, from September 2018 Brad was First Assistant Secretary, Trade and Customs Division. He joined the Department of Home Affairs from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in February 2018 to help establish the National Counter-Foreign Interference Office.

Brad has over 20 years' experience in government (including Australian Border Force, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Treasury, the Office of National Assessments, and a three-month Australian Federal Police secondment). He has also worked for 11 years in the private sector (commercial banking and corporate management).

Brad's time in government and the private sector has included four long-term overseas assignments. This has included several postings to Indonesia, including most recently from January 2015 to January 2018. Over this time, Brad was acting Deputy Ambassador for the last eight months of his posting, he was a board member of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, and he was Co-Chair of the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice. Brad is a fluent Indonesian speaker and has interpreted for two Australian Prime Ministers.

In 2003 he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his work following the 2002 Bali bombings. He has an Anthropology PhD from the Australian National University, a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University, and a Social Sciences Honours Degree from Curtin University. Brad started his working career as an apprentice carpenter.

Alice Stanley

Acting Group Manager Industry and Border Systems



Alice Stanley has been acting in the role of Group Manager Industry and Border Systems since the group was established on 26 October 2020, as part of the ABF's new operating model.

Alice has extensive whole-of-government experience at the federal and state levels. Alice joined the Department as Assistant Secretary Aviation Branch, Aviation and Maritime Security in 2017, from the Department of Defence where she worked for 10 years, primarily as legal counsel, and held the role of Deputy General Counsel.

A recruitment process is being finalised to substantively fill the position of Group Manager Industry and Border Systems, with the Commissioner likely to announce the successful candidate in early 2021.

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1 Overview

1.1 Our Role

The Australian Border Force (ABF) supports national prosperity by facilitating legitimate trade and travel and supports national security by securing Australia's border.

The ABF is positioned as a global leader in border enforcement to protect Australia's borders and ensure our customs and border processes can meet today's challenges and future requirements.

As Australia's customs service, the ABF is the second highest revenue collector for Australia.

A summary of our activities is provided below:

- The ABF's role in border protection involves facilitating traveller and cargo clearance while preventing the cross border movements of individuals who represent a threat, and the importation of illicit drugs.
- The ABF plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of the migration and visa system, which enhances Australia's economic interest, and promotes a prosperous and cohesive society.
- Our work with partner agencies helps identify, target and disrupt high-level criminal activity associated with the unlawful movement and exploitation of people.

The Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2020-21 for the Home Affairs Portfolio included three Outcomes and 16 Programs for the Department of Home Affairs and the ABF. The ABF contributed to two out of the three outcomes across seven programs.

Outcome 1

Protect Australia's sovereignty, security and safety through its national security, emergency management system, law enforcement, and managing its border, including managing the stay and departure of all non-citizens.

Outcome 3

Advance Australia's economic interests through the facilitation of the trade of goods to and from Australia and the collection of border revenue.

To deliver on the PBS Outcomes the ABF's contributions are achieved through a suite of core functions.

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Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the latter half of the 2019-20 financial year, the ABF maintained a range of activities focused on ensuring the integrity of Australia's borders and facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

- In 2019-20, there were more than 44,223 detections of illicit drugs; 2541 undeclared firearms, parts and accessories detected, and 157,549 detections of undeclared illicit tobacco at the border.
- In 2019-20, over 32.73 million air travellers were processed at the border, with more than 20.27 million using automated SmartGate technology.
- In 2019-20, the ABF located 994 illegal workers, and detained and effected the return and removal of unlawful non-citizens.
- Continued growth in cargo volumes saw 57.74 million air cargo consignments processed in 2019-20, compared to 53.05 million in 2018-19 (8.84 per cent increase), and 4.49 million sea cargo consignments processed compared to 3.39 million in 2018-19 (32.74 per cent increase).
- Throughout 2019-20, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts, the volume of international mail decreased in comparison to 2018-19; however, detections in international mail increased to 179,151 in 2019-20, compared to 79,685 in 2018-19 (124.8 per cent increase).
- The Department of Home Affairs' whole-of-government approach to detecting and deterring illegal foreign fishing in the Australian Maritime Domain proved to be extremely effective, with over 50 boarding, educate and disembarks, a number of apprehensions that led to over 20 personnel processed, and seizures of 32 fish aggregating devices, three ghost nets and 10 marine hazards.
- Australia's onshore immigration detention network has adapted to reflect changes to the detainee cohort, including the risks posed by those with serious criminal convictions. As at 31 August 2020, there were 1545 people in Australian immigration detention against a funded capacity of 1000 people.

Our Mission	
<i>To protect Australia's border and enable legitimate travel and trade.</i>	
Our Vision	
<i>To be a global leader in border law enforcement and trusted partner that helps build a safe, secure and prosperous Australia.</i>	
Our Strategic Priorities	
<i>Leadership Officer Capability</i>	
<i>Operational Excellence</i>	
Our Signature Values	
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Professionalism</i>
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Accountability</i>
<i>Teamwork</i>	

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2 Corporate Information

2.1 Our relationship with the Department of Home Affairs

The ABF is an operationally independent body with a statutory head known as the Commissioner. While the ABF is operationally independent, it forms four groups within the Department of Home Affairs with the Department's Secretary as the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA) accountable authority for the ABF, with budgetary and employment responsibilities.

The Department provides the ABF with strategic policy, intelligence support, planning and coordination support, and corporate and enabling services such as ICT, technology and human resource services.

2.2 Governance arrangements

The functional and legislative inter-relationship between the ABF and the Department of Home Affairs requires a level of alignment between respective governance arrangements, including avenues for reporting and escalation of decision-making where required.

The ABF's senior executive participate as members in the Department of Home Affairs' governance framework. The ABF has complementary governance arrangements in place that align to the Department of Home Affairs, governing and monitoring our operational priorities and performance. This provides the primary mechanism for organisational stewardship, accountability, and operational performance monitoring.

2.3 Budget

The Secretary is the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act* accountable authority for the ABF, as well as the employer of ABF officers with the exception of the statutorily appointed Commissioner. The ABF is operationally independent, although it is established within the Department of Home Affairs for budgetary, employment and administrative purposes.

The ABF sits within the Department of Home Affairs construct as its operational arm, and comprises four groups:

- National Operations Group
- Operational Strategy and Coordination Group
- Customs Group
- Industry and Border Systems Group.

The Commands and Branches within these Groups work cooperatively to deliver a framework of management, operational policy and support required to effectively deliver border operations. Please refer to Appendix 1.

The ABF's performance measures are reported as part of the Department of Home Affairs' annual report. The ABF's operating budget for the 2020-21 financial year was \$963.01 million, as of December 2020.

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2.4 Operating Model

On 26 October 2020, the ABF commenced implementing a new operating model to better support its longer-term strategic intent and enhance its capabilities to meet future challenges through a strengthened regional presence. The new operating model is connecting delivery to decision-making. It is positioning leadership closer to industry, law enforcement partners, and other stakeholders, promoting strategic engagement and the co-design of solutions.

In October 2020, three Assistant Commissioners (SES Band 2 officers) were redeployed to locations in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, with a fourth to be redeployed to Perth in the New Year. Additionally, the incoming Deputy Commissioner Operational Strategy and Coordination (SES Band 3) will be based in Brisbane.

2.5 Our People

ABF officers are employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* with the Secretary as the PGPA authority and the employer of all ABF officers excluding the Commissioner who is statutorily appointed by the Minister. The ABF workforce is made up of Border Force Officers (BFOs) who are part of the Border Operations vocational stream. BFOs are operationally ready, must be sworn, generally uniformed and are able to be deployed at short notice across a range of operating domains.

Since its stand-up in July 2015, the ABF continues to transition to a modern, border law enforcement agency capable of operating as a world leading customs organisation, while protecting our border from new challenges. ABF officers:

- are professional, highly skilled and well-supported with training and opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills
- have the highest levels of personal and professional integrity
- are challenged with exciting work and new opportunities every day
- are part of a highly capable team
- are proud of the work they do and are highly motivated to get the job done.

On 10 November 2020, Commissioner Michael Outram APM launched the ABF's *Realising Our Full Potential 2020-25* strategic plan. The next five years will see important changes to our operating environment. *Realising Our Full Potential* focuses on what needs to be done over the next two years and looks beyond to longer-term objectives up to 2025. We will strengthen our regional presence to better position the ABF to help design a border that enables economic recovery, while maintaining the security and safety of our community. The plan builds on our considerable achievements and capabilities to respond to current and future challenges. It outlines improvements through continuing the ABF's strategic priorities: Leadership, Officer Capability and Operational Excellence.

These priorities will strengthen our operational performance and build on our reputation as a professional, disciplined law enforcement agency.

A breakdown of the ABF workforce demographics

APS Classification	Headcount at 31 August 2020	%
APS 1-2/Trainee/Cadet/Graduate	710	12%
APS 3	1427	24%
APS 4	700	12%
APS 5	1279	22%
APS 6	929	16%
EL 1	542	9%
EL 2 and EL 2.1	195	3%
SES	45	0.7%
Total	5827	

* Headcount numbers reflect long-term and short-term acting arrangements

Age Distribution	%
Under 25 years	3.7%
25 to 34 years	17.8%
35 to 44 years	29.8%
45 to 54 years	30.8%
55 to 60 years	10.9%
Over 60 years	7.0%

Gender	%
Female	43.6%
Male	56.4%

Other key workforce statistics	%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees	2.84%
Employees with a disability	1.2%

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2.6 Our Partners

Close partnerships, collaboration arrangements and coordination efforts with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, international counterparts and organisations, and industry partners are critical to delivering effective outcomes. Our current partners include:

Key agencies	
Department of Home Affairs	Department of Defence
Australian Federal Police (AFP)	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Department of Finance
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (DIRDC)	Austrade
Department of Health (DoH)	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)
Australian Taxation Office (ATO)	State and Territory law enforcement agencies
Australian Intelligence Community	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
State and Territory corrections	Commonwealth Ombudsman & External scrutiny bodies
Attorney Generals Department (AGD)	Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC)
Department of the Environment and Energy (Parks Australia)	Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Comcare	Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
Industry	
Australian Trusted Trader members	Customs Brokers
Australia Post	Air and sea port authorities
Oil and gas industry	Airlines
International Organisations	
World Customs Organisation (WCO)	Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)
Regional Partners	
Customs, Immigration and Partner agencies in regional Countries that ABF has a presence.	

The ABF at a glance 2019-20

People and goods



35m

travellers
(passenger and crew)
who crossed the
Australian border

32.73m

air travellers
(passenger and crew)
who crossed the
Australian border

2.27m

sea travellers
(passenger and crew)
who crossed the
Australian border

20.27m

travellers processed
using automated
systems

57.7m

air cargo
consignments cleared

Investigations and compliance



994

illegal workers
located

18,487

unlawful
non-citizens located

765

businesses accredited
as Australian Trusted
Traders since inception

2,541

undeclared firearms,
parts and accessories
detected at the border

40,223

illicit, prohibited
and restricted drug
detections at
the border

184

Illegal Worker
Warning Notices issued
to employers and
business sponsors

10,881.52kg

major illicit drugs and precursors detected at the border

Detention



25

illegal foreign
fishers taken into
immigration detention

1,523¹

people in Australian
immigration detention
(mainland and Christmas
Island) at 30 June 2020

838

people in the community
under Residence
Determination

1. Immigration detention includes people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention.

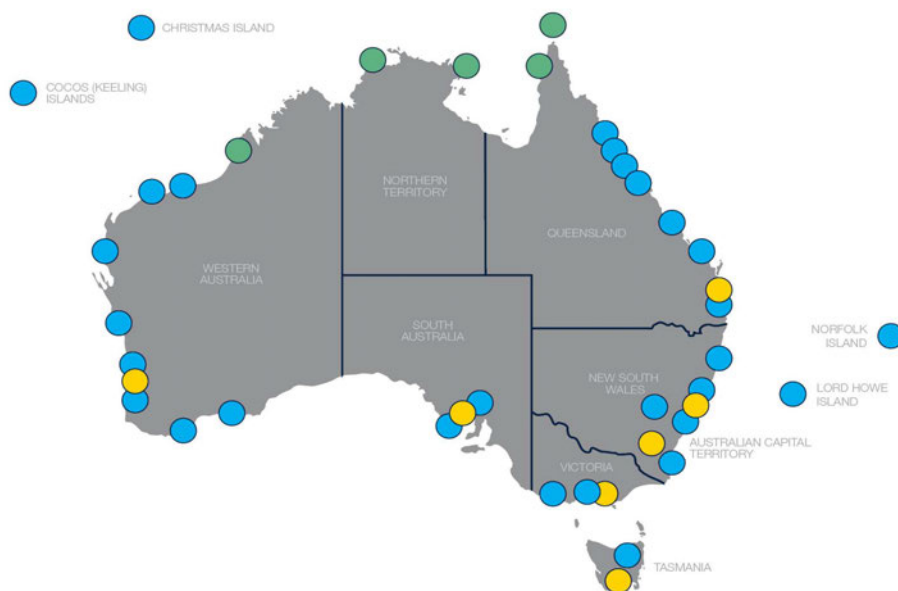
3 Our Operating Environment

3.1 National presence

The ABF's operational headquarters is located in Canberra and has a permanent presence in all Australian states and territories, and international representation in 19 countries.

As at 31 August 2020, the national ABF headcount was 5827, including intermittent irregular employees (IIES) who are employed on a casual basis assisting during surge or daily and seasonal peak processing periods.

Nationally, the ABF operates across numerous areas, including international airports, international mail and cargo facilities, seaports, wharves and cruise terminals, regional and remote areas, within the Australian Maritime Domain (AMD), and across the immigration detention network. Currently, the ABF has a permanent presence at the 10 major international airports and is responsible for 68 ports appointed under section 15 of the *Customs Act 1901*.



District Offices

Albany	Geraldton
Bowen	Gladstone
Bunbury	Launceston
Bundaberg	Lord Howe Island
Cairns	MacKay
Carnarvon	Newcastle
Christmas Island	Norfolk Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Port Hedland
Coffs Harbour	Port Lincoln
Coolangatta	Port Pirie
Dampier	Portland
Eden	Richmond
Esperance	Townsville
Fremantle	Wollongong
Geelong	

Regional Commands

Australian Capital Territory
New South Wales
South Australia
Queensland
Victoria / Tasmania*
Western Australia

* Victoria / Tasmania is a joint regional command

Northern Command

Broome
Darwin
Gove
Thursday Island
Weipa

Figure 1 - ABF Regional Commands, District Offices, Northern Command locations

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3.2 International

Informed by intelligence and operating upstream in the border continuum, under a six pillar framework - Prevention, Deterrence, Disruption, Enforcement, Engagement and Facilitation - the ABF's overseas network of officers are deployed to detect and disrupt threats to the border and the broader community before they reach Australia, while promoting and facilitating trade and travel.

The ABF's international officers support the broader Department of Home Affairs' international network, working collaboratively to advance Australia's priorities and interests internationally. The ABF's international footprint includes 18 officers on long-term posting, six Airline Liaison Officers (ALOs) on short-term missions, and up to a further 15 ALOs to be deployed as the international situation permits.

The ABF's ALO Program maintains a strong position at key international departure points and hubs to detect and disrupt improperly documented travellers; deter irregular migration to Australia; and support legitimate travel. ALOs work closely with airlines, airport security groups, and host government authorities offshore to achieve this mission.

3.3 Australian Maritime Domain

The ABF is the primary Australian Government civil law enforcement organisation in the Australian Maritime Domain (AMD) undertaking civil maritime operations to detect, deter, respond to, and prevent illegal activities in the AMD.

Australia's current surveillance capacity is deployed on the basis of available intelligence concerning civil maritime security threats to cover priority threat axes.

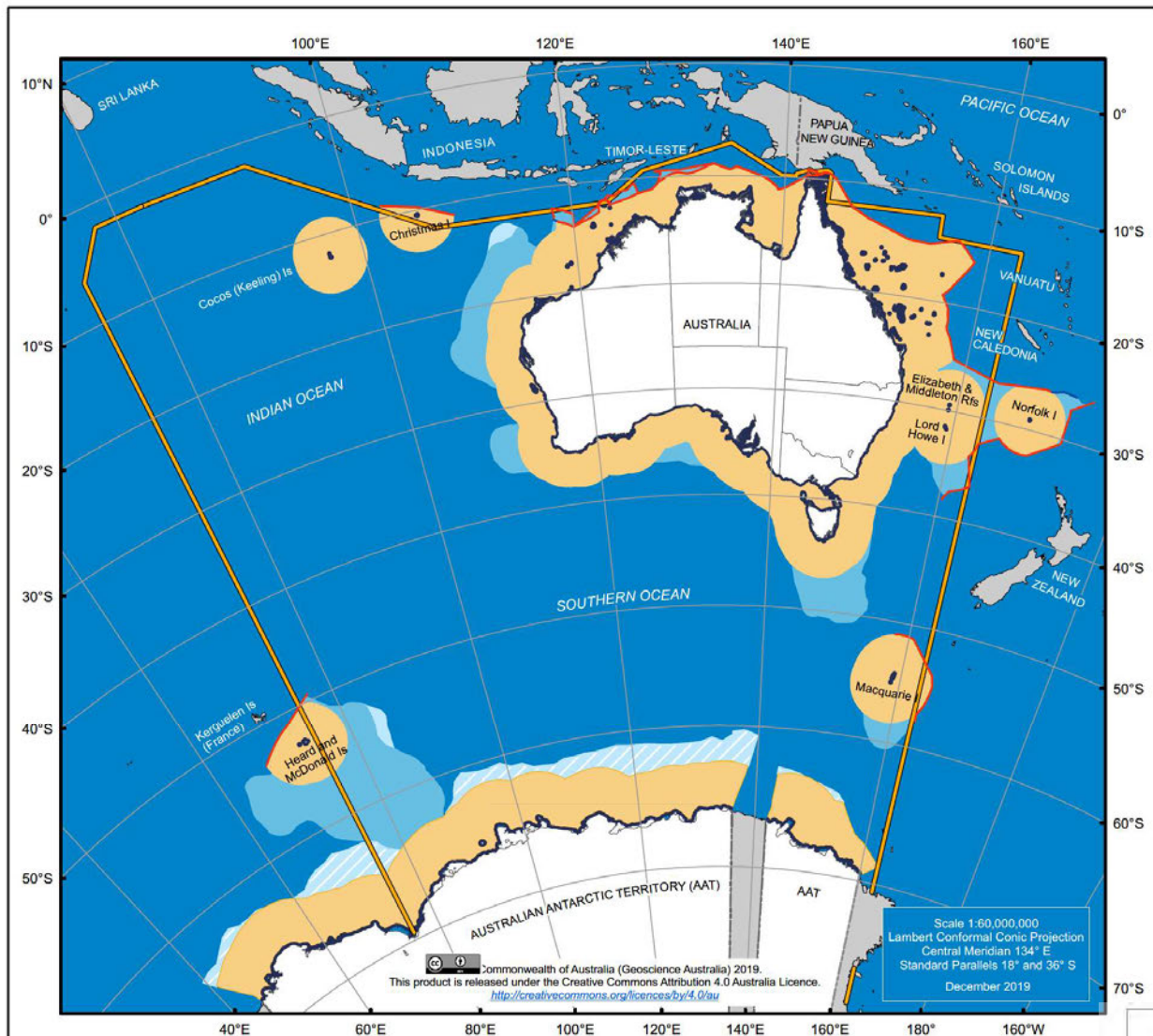
The eight Civil Maritime Security threats

There are eight defined civil maritime security threats:

1. Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals (UMA)
2. Prohibited Imports and Exports (PI&E)
3. Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (IENR)
4. Illegal Activity in Protected Areas (IAPA)
5. Compromise to Biosecurity (C2B)
6. Maritime Terrorism (MT)
7. Piracy, Robbery or Violence at Sea (PRVS)
8. Marine Pollution (MP).

The image below outlines the AMD. The dark blue area is the Contiguous zone, where contraventions of customs and immigration laws can be enforced, the green area is the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), where fishing, environmental and resources laws are applicable, and the pink areas are continental shelf extensions to seabed and subsoil resources as allowed by the United Nations. The area bounded in orange constitutes Australia's search and rescue region as well as the area in which Australia assumes responsibility as the Security Forces Authority for coordination of response to incidents of piracy, robbery and violence at sea.

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Australia's Maritime Jurisdiction

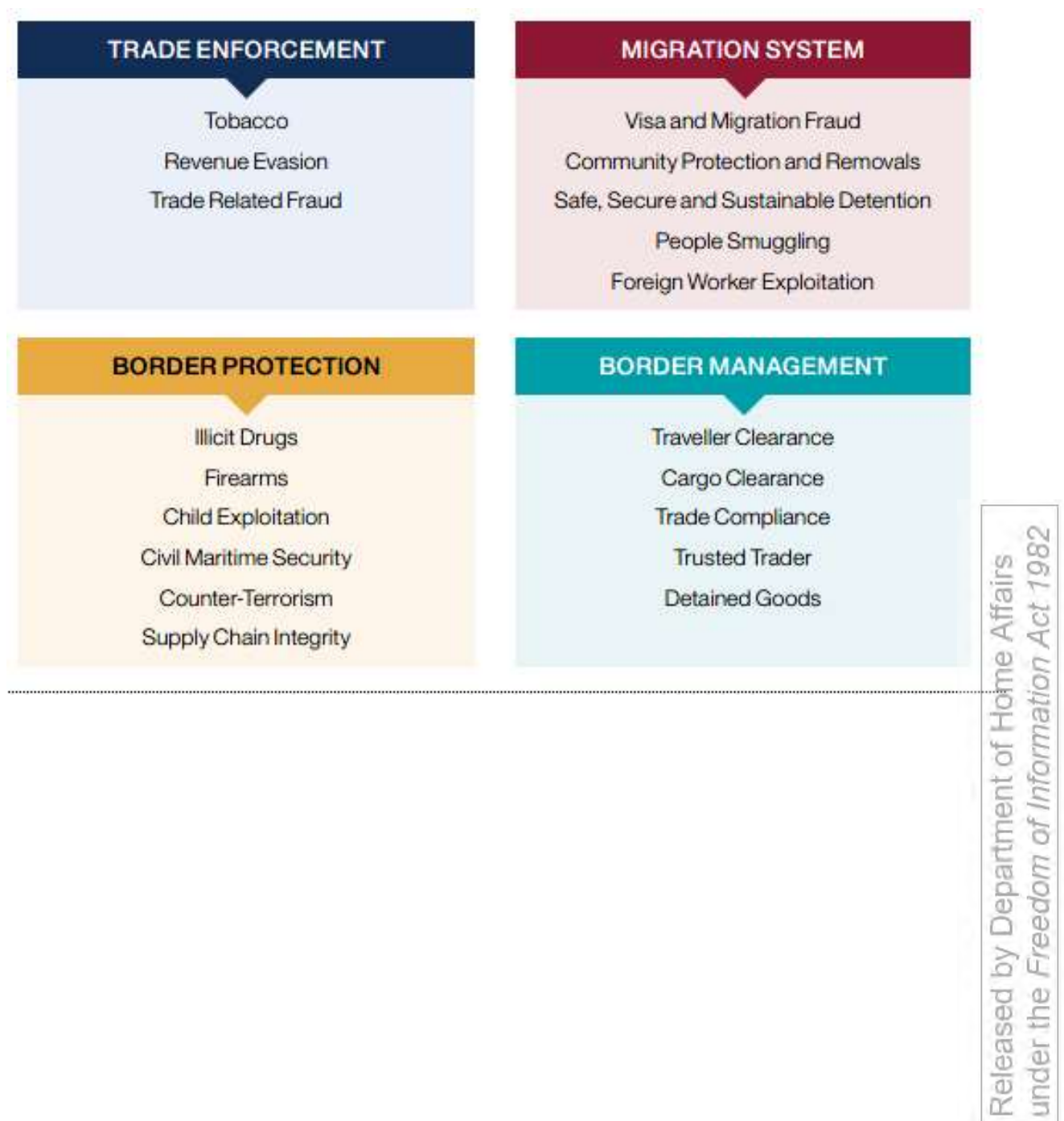
- Limit of Australian Search and Rescue Region
- Treaty boundary with opposite or adjacent State
- 200 nautical mile line off an opposite or adjacent State
- Area of Australia's territorial sea and internal waters
- Area of Australia's exclusive economic zone as defined by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and certain treaties (not all in force)

- Area of Australia's continental shelf beyond the exclusive economic zone as proclaimed by the Seas and Submerged Lands (Limits of Continental Shelf) Proclamation 2012 and/or as defined by certain treaties (not all in force)
- Area of Australia's continental shelf beyond the exclusive economic zone considered by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and yet to be resolved
- Area of Australia's continental shelf beyond the exclusive economic zone off the Australian Antarctic Territory that Australia requested the Commission not consider for the time being

4 Our Operational Priorities

The ABF delivers a wide range of functions across the border continuum—that is pre-border, at the border and post-border. Operational Priorities ensure the ABF meets its obligations to the Government and the Australian community—securing our border and facilitating legitimate trade and travel. Operational Priorities are a key component of the ABF Operational Planning Framework and are reviewed on an annual basis. They are informed by the threat environment and help drive and realise the ABF's strategic direction.

Our Operational Priorities for 2020 focus on four key pillars: Trade Enforcement, Migration System, Border Protection and Border Management. The ABF continues to adapt a flexible model for reviewing and updating Operational Priorities, particularly as threats change and risks emerge.



4.1 Trade Enforcement

As Australia's customs service, the ABF plays a vital role in the facilitation of legitimate trade across Australia's border, and securing supply chains against ever-evolving security threats, such as revenue evasion and fraud, illicit drugs and organised crime. Our trade facilitation role contributes to the advancement of Australia's economic interests and creates both a level playing field for industry and promotes trade.

A key priority for the ABF is enhancing its trade enforcement activities that will foster economic prosperity and reduce the economic harm associated with revenue evasion. Successful intervention through a robust trade enforcement capability contributes to the advancement of Australia's economic interests by maintaining the integrity of trade and reduces the economic harm to Australian businesses due to revenue evasion and the importation of non-conforming products.

Increasing trade and traveller volumes continue to place significant pressure on the ABF's operations. It is vital that the ABF maintains the integrity of Australia's border whilst keeping pace with an increasingly complex international trade environment and respond to existing and emerging threats. Opportunities exist to strengthen the ABF's current trade enforcement capability as minimal enforcement activities are undertaken and sanctions are under-utilised as a result of ongoing pressures and the need to prioritise activity and resources to the areas of highest threat and risk across the border continuum.

Organised crime groups (OCGs) and non-compliant actors will continue to make attempts to avoid paying border-related duty and taxes and abusing trade incentives to increase profits or gain market advantage. As such, the consistent and structured development of specialist tradecraft and a workforce dedicated to trade enforcement activities are key to supporting the ABF's enhanced trade enforcement capability.

Tobacco – Illicit Tobacco Taskforce

The illicit tobacco market is being exploited by serious and organised crime syndicates to fund more serious and insidious crimes that undermine Australia's national interests and deprive the Commonwealth Government of significant legitimate revenue.

In May 2018, it was announced that a comprehensive tobacco package would form part of the Black Economy Taskforce Budget measures. A key feature of the announcement was the formation of an Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF). The budget measure provides specific funding and staffing for the ABF, Home Affairs, ACIC, AUSTRAC, ATO and CDPP.

The ITTF protects Commonwealth revenue by proactively targeting, disrupting and dismantling organised crime syndicates involved in the trade of illicit tobacco.

Since its establishment in July 2018, ITTF activity represents almost 30 per cent of total ABF tobacco seizures by weight and duty evaded (as at 31 August 2020).

In the 2019-20 financial year, ITTF related illicit tobacco seizures totalled approximately 13.9 tonnes of loose leaf and molasses tobacco and 191.5 million cigarettes and the destruction of approximately 72 acres of domestic illicit tobacco crops, worth an estimated value of approximately \$273.5 million in evaded duty.

Trade-Based Money Laundering

The International Monetary Fund has estimated that money laundering comprises between 2 to 5 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), which is upwards of approximately \$4 trillion USD. In Australia for 2018, this equates to approximately \$52 billion USD (or 3.7 per cent of Australia's GDP of \$1.3 trillion USD).

Trade-based money laundering is emerging as a significant challenge. It involves the exploitation of Australia's international trade system to disguise the proceeds of crime by moving value through trade transactions. This attempts to legitimise the illicit origins of the value, or to finance criminal activities.

The ABF recognises the crucial role it plays within the anti-money laundering strategy. The frequent cross-border movement of trade, travellers and finances sees the ABF as pivotal in delivering effective border related enforcement measures to counter illicit financial flows. Additionally, the ABF contributes to national strategies on corporate and economic crime.

4.2 Migration System

Australia is part of an increasingly complex and inter-connected world, in which technology, demographics, culture and economy are evolving. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, record numbers of travellers were traversing the border annually. As these numbers increase, there is a need to remain vigilant for threats to the nation's security, while also taking advantage of the economic and social benefits that travellers and migrants bring to Australia.

The *Migration Act 1958* (Migration Act) creates the statutory framework that regulates the entry and stay of non-citizens in Australia. Non-citizens without a valid visa who have exhausted all avenues to remain in Australia lawfully are expected to depart. If an unlawful non-citizen (UNC) does not depart voluntarily, he or she is subject to immigration detention and removal from Australia as set out in the Migration Act.

Threat levels are increasing and threat types are constantly evolving. Australia's attractiveness as a work destination is a key 'pull' factor for potential illegal immigrants and those seeking to work in breach of their visa conditions. These are complex challenges to the Migration System and are a high priority for the ABF. Specific challenges include: people smuggling; visa and migration fraud; human trafficking; the exploitation of foreign workers; and the location, detention and removal of non-citizens who have been identified as threats to the Australian community.

The ABF is responsible for locating, detaining, and removing UNC's. Field Operations activity is focused towards UNC's who pose a significant risk to the Australian community, those involved in organised and criminal exploitation of Australia's visa program, and foreign worker exploitation. The objective of activities and operations undertaken by Field Operations is to respond appropriately to different levels of non-compliance with the Migration Act, with a layered prevention, deterrence, and enforcement action.

The ABF uses its allocated budget to manage emerging threats pre-border, at the border and post-border. To ensure the best use of resources for post-border activity, a field operations priority matrix is used to identify the most serious forms of non-compliance. This includes s501 cancellations for non-citizens who present a threat to national security or significant risk to the Australian community (this could also be in the form of a safety and good order, referrals of human

trafficking, slavery, referrals from courts or multiple referrals of foreign worker exploitation). Currently the ABF prioritises these types of cases over all other cases, including single allegations of foreign worker exploitation or long term (+10 years) unlawful non-citizens.

The ABF's legislative framework is not well-adapted to a modern, integrated border agency, with much of its legislation made at a time when migration and customs enforcement were separate and singular. As such, the Department is working with the ABF on a proposal to codify the ABF's functions within legislation to provide greater clarity on the agency's responsibilities and breadth of operational domain; and modernise and harmonise the ABF's powers to ensure the ABF has the tools it needs to perform these functions.

The Department and ABF have partnered with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to appoint trained ABF Investigation officers as 'AFP Special Members', through an 18-month pilot program. On 2 October 2020, 22 ABF officers in Victoria were sworn in as special members as part of the first phase of this pilot. The purpose of the program is to assist the AFP in the performance of its functions by enhancing interoperability between the AFP and ABF, and support joint operations. The program has the additional benefit of upskilling ABF officers' proficiency and ability to utilise powers under Part IAA of the Crimes Act 1914. Operational outcomes from these activities will be used to inform the evidence base for the ABF powers reform project.

Illegal Maritime Arrival caseload

On 21 May 2017 the then Minister for Immigration and Border Protection announced any illegal maritime arrival (IMA) who arrived between 13 August 2012 and 1 January 2014 must apply for a Temporary Protection Visa or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa prior to 1 October 2017.

Of the approximately 32,000 individuals within this cohort, 71 IMAs failed to engage prior to the lodgement deadline. These 71 individuals became liable for immigration detention and removal from Australia. Operation BADIGEON was established to locate, detain, and remove individuals within this cohort.

As at 31 August 2020:

- 25 have been referred to ABF to locate and detain
- seven have been referred to ABF for future action
- six are in immigration detention.
- fewer than five are in prison and have been referred to ABF to detain when they are released. Of these individuals, the earliest release date is 2023.
- 13 were removed from Australia
- 14 voluntarily departed Australia from the community
- five were granted visas and are lawful non-citizens.

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Foreign Worker Exploitation

Worker exploitation includes under payment and the non-payment of wages, loss of superannuation and other employee entitlements, human trafficking, debt bondage, sexual servitude, slavery, slavery-like practices, mistreatment, and exorbitant fees for inadequate and overcrowded accommodation and living expenses. The ABF, the broader Department of Home Affairs, and counterparts across the Commonwealth are committed to combatting foreign worker exploitation in Australia. There is concerted effort to undertake compliance activities, enforcement responses, and education to counter foreign worker exploitation.

Field activity, including observations from Operation BATTENRUN, which has targeted unscrupulous labour hire intermediaries and those exploiting foreign workers, has increased from 95 activities in 2018-19 to 842 activities in 2019-20. This is an increase of over 800 per cent, partly due to BATTENRUN established in December 2018 (part year figures) and to the realisation of operational planning lines of effort coming to fruition in the 2019-20 year. The ABF has executed 72 s251 warrants (powers of entry and search), cancelled 25 visas and conducted over 626 field observations, all of which have a disruption effect on the exploitation of foreign workers.

Illustrating the successful shift in focus towards targeting higher-risk industries, is the indication of higher levels of non-compliance identified by Sponsor Monitoring Unit (SMU) in 2019-20. The SMU is a national network that undertakes proactive, targeted compliance activities to ensure sponsors, including standard business sponsors or labour agreement sponsors, are not breaching their sponsorship obligations.

- A 14 per cent increase in warning letters.
- An increase in infringement notices issued to businesses, resulting in an increase of \$64,260 in penalties.
- Despite the challenges of COVID-19, 38 infringement notices were provided in 2019-20 - an increase of ten on the previous year. Despite site visits being restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic, positive disruption effects are being captured through the desktop auditing and monitoring of activities.
- Of the 38 infringements issued with total value of \$356,580, 35 have been paid totalling \$318,780. The accommodation and food industry represented 57 per cent of total infringements.

Impact of COVID-19 on foreign worker exploitation

The threat of foreign worker exploitation has continued during COVID-19, but due to the limited opportunity for temporary visa holders to enter Australia, the focus for unscrupulous players has potentially shifted to vulnerable visa holders already on shore. The ability for foreign workers to enter Australia will be variously impacted in the foreseeable future.

In-person field activity during COVID-19 has decreased due to various lockdowns and restrictions on travel. As such, field Operations have pivoted to increase focus on prevention and educational activities including employer awareness and education, and the issuing of Illegal Worker Warning Notices. Employer awareness activities are conducted through phone calls, letters, and emails when officers conduct administrative actions or in the field when officers conduct site visits with a decrease in field visit actions due to the impact of COVID-19. Education activities enable employers (including labour hire intermediaries) to understand the lawful requirements for the employment of non-citizens.

The number of UNCs removed from Australia by the ABF has decreased as a direct result of COVID-19. This is primarily due to border closures, a lack of commercial flights (thus relying on charter flights), home countries not accepting the returns of their nationals, and an inability to perform escorted removals of high-risk persons on commercial flights.

During the period 1 February 2020 – 31 August 2020, 647 people were removed from onshore detention.

The ABF has managed to overcome challenges within the COVID-19 environment:

- the use of charter flights to reduce COVID-19 transmission risks,
- the use of a dedicated group of escorts who are subject to self-isolation requirements between flights,
- no members of the public being present on the charter flights, further mitigating transmission risks, and
- close cooperation with state health departments to develop agreed mitigation strategies.

Safe, Secure and Sustainable Detention

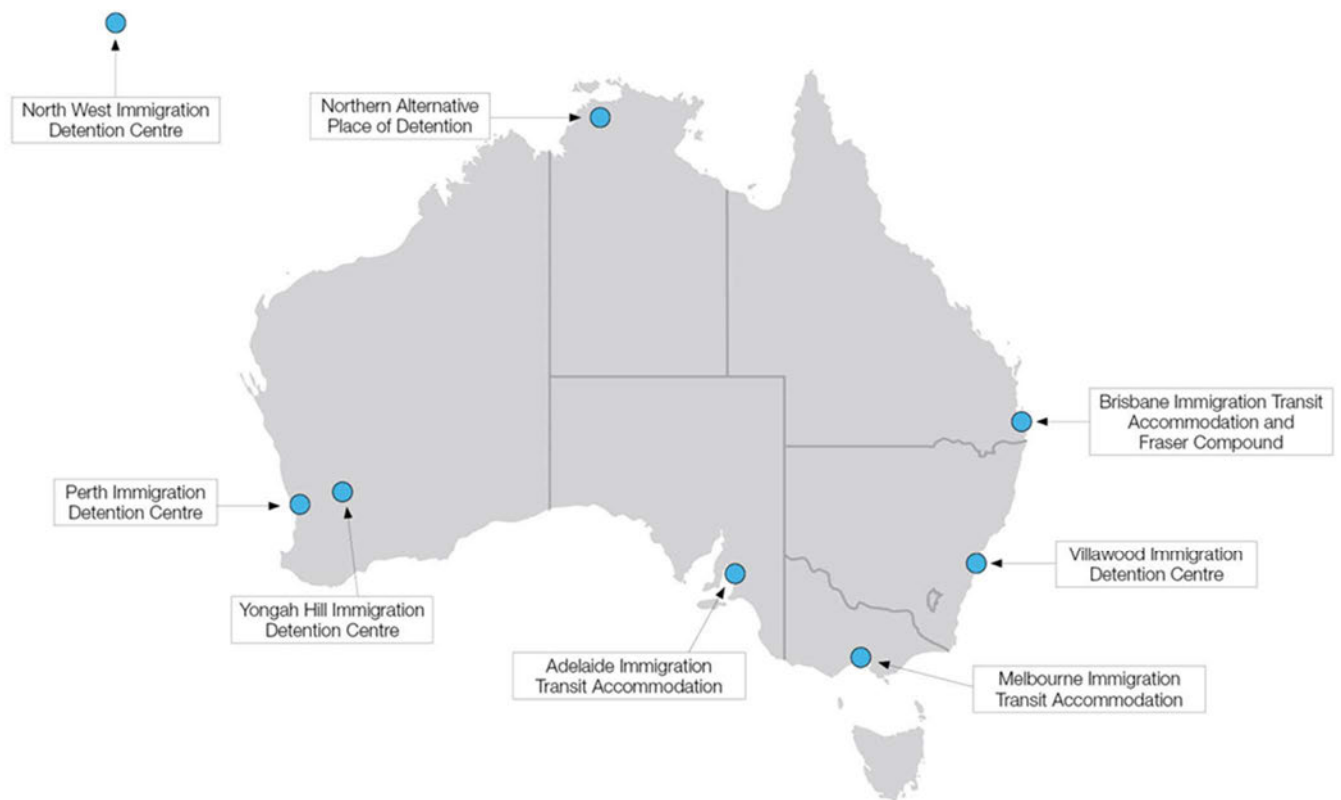
Immigration detention is part of a strong border control and supports the integrity of Australia's migration program. The Australian Government, service providers and independent agencies work together to manage immigration detention with a shared goal of resolving the immigration status of each person as fairly and fast as possible or removing them from Australia.

The Department of Home Affairs procures a range of services for unlawful non-citizens in all immigration detention facilities. These services encompass health, garrison, security, facilities management, transport and escort, and welfare and engagement. The management of the onshore immigration detention network is currently contracted to Serco as the facilities and detainees service provider (FDSP). Health services are currently contracted to International Health Medical Services (IHMS).

As at 31 August 2020, the total Immigration Detention Network (IDN) population was 1545 against a funded capacity of 1000. The three nationalities with the largest number of citizens currently in immigration detention are Iranian, New Zealanders and Vietnamese.

Of the 1545 detainees in the IDN:

- Two are minors
- 1488 (96%) were male and 57 (< 4%) were female
- 1098 (71%) have a criminal history
- 711 (46%) were s501 visa cancellations
- 503 (33%) were illegal maritime arrivals
- 268 (17%) were transitory persons transferred from Nauru or Papua New Guinea of which 184 of these were accommodated in alternative places of detention (APODs)
- 1112 (72%) are assessed by the Detention Service Provider as being high to extreme risk
- the average time spent in held detention was 564 days.



The ABF is also currently using unfunded APODs in Melbourne (The Park Hotel on Swanston), Brisbane (Kangaroo Point Hotel) and Darwin (Mercure Hotel) to hold over 170 transitory persons who have been brought to Australia temporarily for medical treatment. The Melbourne and Brisbane APODs are subject to regular ongoing protest action.

s. 47E(d)

Inflows of transitory persons add to the complexity of the network due to mandatory quarantine requirements on arrival and the need to assess and provide ongoing medical support. The Blaxland complex at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre which was to be decommissioned in 2020, is temporarily being used for quarantine of this cohort. New South Wales authorities have approved the site as a suitable quarantine facility for this purpose.

The ABF is also working closely with partner agencies to manage the implications of recent amendments to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* which will allow the Minister to make a decision to cease the Australian citizenship of terrorist offenders convicted and sentenced to at least three years imprisonment. The ceasing of Australian citizenship and the cancellation of the ex-citizen visa for convicted terrorists will make those persons unlawful non-citizens and liable for immigration detention.

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Based on convictions since 29 May 2003, the Department of Home Affairs has identified a caseload of 56 convicted terrorist offenders who meet sentencing thresholds for citizenship cessation. Of these offenders, 37 are currently incarcerated and 19 have been released after serving their sentence, noting that dual citizenship assessments for these and future offenders will be undertaken at the point they are prioritised for consideration.

The IDN has not previously held convicted terrorist offenders, and detention in current IDN facilities is not suitable for the highest risk offenders. This is based on immigration detention being administrative in nature and not punitive, with limited controls available to manage those who pose an extreme risk to themselves or others and require management by expert providers. Historically, these detainees have been placed with State/Territory Corrections based on their agreement and a cost recovery arrangement.

COVID-safe detention

The ABF and its service providers (Serco and IHMS) have implemented planning, infection control measures and Outbreak Management Plans, at all immigration detention facilities (IDFs), including Alternative Places of Detention (APODs).

These measures adhere to the Communicable Diseases Network Australia's (CDNA) *National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Correctional and Detention Facilities in Australia*. The ABF's approach has also been informed through advice from Medical Officers of the Commonwealth employed by the Department of Home Affairs.

The ABF continues to work closely with state and territory authorities to foster understanding and agreement on response arrangements should a COVID-19 outbreak occur within an IDF. This includes desktop scenario exercises.

To date, these measures have been successful with no detainee testing positive to COVID-19.

On 4 August 2020, the Government announced the re-activation of North West Point Immigration Detention Centre on Christmas Island to relieve capacity pressures on the Immigration Detention Network (IDN) caused by COVID-19. This includes the limited ability to remove people due to international border closures, the inability to obtain foreign travel documents, continued inflows of prison releases, and the requirement to maintain contingency quarantine capacity at all facilities in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Since this time, the population of the IDN has remained above 1500 and is not expected to decrease until the international COVID-19 situation abates and removals of people can return to pre-COVID levels.

Removals

The removal of UNC's from Australia is only undertaken following rigorous checks to establish identity, nationality, visa status, and to ensure that the removal is compliant with Australia's international obligations. An individual will only be removed once their status is deemed to be finally determined.

The majority of immigration detainees removed from Australia are voluntary. In 2019-20, 97 per cent (5403) were voluntary, 3 per cent (142) were involuntary.

Charter operations to remove UNCs have increased in the COVID 19 environment due to the limited availability of commercial flights. The ABF has removed a number of individuals to New Zealand, Vietnam, Italy, and the United Kingdom following cancellation of their visas or whose visa ceased naturally.

Examples of 501 Cancellations – criminal conduct

Section 501(3A) of the Act requires that a person's visa must be cancelled if:

- they are serving a full-time term of imprisonment for an offence committed in Australia, or
- they have, at any time, been sentenced to a period of 12 months or more in prison or have had a charge proven for, or
- have been found guilty of, a sexually based crime involving a child.

Of those removed, criminal convictions included trafficking methamphetamine, causing grievous bodily harm, domestic violence, assault occasioning bodily harm and affray and child sex offences. One man had recently been released from prison after serving six years in jail for pretending to be an international pop star online to prey on young girls.

Maritime People Smuggling

The Australian Government remains committed to countering maritime people smuggling and preventing deaths at sea.

People smuggling is the organised, irregular movement of people across borders on a payment-for-service basis.

The threat to Australia posed by maritime people smuggling remains suppressed, but not defeated.

Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB) is a military-led Joint Agency Task Force (JATF), reporting to the Minister for Home Affairs for operational matters under the leadership of the Australian Border Force.

Fundamental to the success of the OSB mission are three pillars:

- a) Disruption and deterrence activities underpinned by the 'Zero Chance' strategic communication campaign (OSB led)
- b) On water operations, to return potential illegal immigrants to source and transit countries, where appropriate (OSB led); and
- c) Regional Processing to enable settlement in third countries (led by the Department of Home Affairs).

JATF OSB utilises these pillars by coordinating the delivery of six core effects – deterrence, disruption, detection, interception, return and resettlement. Delivery of these effects occurs through a multi-layered, multi-agency approach.

Australia's border protection polices under OSB, including the Australian Government's 'Zero Chance' strategic messaging campaign, are an effective deterrent to maritime people smuggling ventures.

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It is now more than six years since the last successful maritime people smuggling venture to Australia, and more than seven years since the last known death at sea from maritime people smuggling ventures en route to Australia.

4.3 Border Protection

Rapid and continual changes in intelligence, technology and data affect how Australia manages the movement of people and goods across its border, as well as the new and divergent methodologies that criminal entities employ to do harm to the Australian community. Continuing to secure our border against these criminal entities while enabling the legitimate movement of people and goods are complex challenges to our Border Protection strategy and remain a high priority for the ABF.

Illicit Drugs

Australia is a high-profit illicit drug market compared to other countries. This is a major strategic driver of illicit drug importations into Australia. The ABF supports the role of Commonwealth and state and territory law enforcement agencies in combatting the illicit drug trade market.

Methamphetamine, cocaine and methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) are the three main drugs supplied to the Australian drug market. However, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) have also emerged in recent years as a major threat to Australia.

There were over 40,000 detections of illicit and restricted drugs at the border by the ABF during 2019-20, with a combined weight of more than 10.9 tonnes prevented from reaching the community.

Firearms

The majority of undeclared firearm importations are sent by legitimate international firearms dealers who are unaware of Australia's restrictions on firearms.

The ABF plays an important role in mitigating the threat of illicit firearms to the Australian community, through detections at the border and actively participating in multi-agency intelligence initiatives seeking to better monitor the movement, use and actors involved in illicit firearm activity.

The ABF uses a variety of detection methodologies and technologies, including x-ray and detector dogs to prevent a significant number of firearms entering the community.

From 2015 to 2017, more than \$4.2 million has been invested to significantly upgrade x-ray screening capabilities at container examination facilities (CEFs) and mobile mail screening capability, to assist officers combat the increasing sophistication of the methods of concealment employed by organised crime groups.

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Child Exploitation

The significant drop in international travel has seen a drop in the number of detections of objectionable material, including child-exploitation material from 432 detections in 2019-20 to 323 detections in 2019-20. Detections of childlike sex dolls however increased in 2019-20 compared to the previous year and also during COVID-19 (March -August) compared to the same time last year. Noting importation of childlike sex dolls is normally via cargo streams, increases in air and sea cargo volumes, as well as improved profiling and targeting activities, have contributed to this increase.

The *Passport Legislation Amendment (Overseas Travel by Child Sex Offenders) Act 2017* came into effect on 13 December 2017 after Royal Assent on 27 June 2017. This Act makes it an offence for registered Australian child sex offenders with reporting obligations to competent authorities to depart Australia without permission.

Civil Maritime Security

The ABF has a range of assets to detect, deter and respond to civil maritime security threats, including illegal maritime arrivals, prohibited import and export activity and illegal fishing.

The ABF operates a fleet of 12 ocean-going vessels: eight Cape Class Patrol Boats (CCPBs), two Bay Class Patrol Boats, one Large Hull Vessel (Ocean Shield), and Thaiyak. The ABF also provides enforcement capability for the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Protector. The ABF also operates a fleet of small vessels, including two Fast Response Boats (FRBs), 13 Port, Harbour and Coastal Class vessels, and other small vessels.

Counter Terrorism

It is the ABF's priority to contribute to the whole-of-government effort to prevent potential terrorist acts and actors affecting the safety, cohesion and wellbeing of Australian society, including returning foreign fighters and right-wing extremists.

ABF counter terrorism efforts include detecting and responding to maritime terrorist threats and the protection of offshore assets and resources through the development of our maritime capability and response. The ABF, through Maritime Border Command, is the coordinating authority for Australia's whole-of-government response to and recovery from terrorist acts in the offshore maritime environment to the outer boundary of Australia's Security Forces Authority Area (SFAA).

The ABF Counter Terrorism Units (CTUs) enhance the ABF's onshore capability to deal with both inbound and outbound national security risks across the national security spectrum (inclusive of right-wing extremists). They intervene or intercept persons of national security interest in ABF controlled areas under the Customs Act 1901.

Supply Chain Integrity

The complexity in international trade is increasing with the rise of e-commerce, new platforms and diversified supply chains. Threat levels are increasing and threat types are constantly changing. The trading community is largely compliant, paying duty and other border-related taxes and complying with trade measures, but it also includes a sector that attempts to increase profits or gain market advantage through non-compliance or criminal behaviour.

The ABF's current trade enforcement program is characterised by basic analysis in the risk areas, limited checks to identify consignments being deliberately undervalued to avoid the payment of duty and GST and the ABF's trade enforcement footprint is focussed on administrative processing functions as well as audit, revenue analysis and voluntary disclosures.

Ineffective trade enforcement is a significant border risk and vulnerability. It undermines measures to protect Australian industry from unfair trade practices such as dumping, which can be circumvented by those seeking to exploit perceived vulnerabilities at the border.

The ABF's current compliance and trade enforcement activities encompass monitoring and assurance at the low-risk end of the compliance spectrum through enforced regulation for high risk consignments and are directed toward the key risk areas of:

- regulated and restricted goods
- economic harm (including revenue evasion)
- supply chain integrity.

Project JARDENA is one of our key measures to proactively identify supply chain vulnerabilities and implement effective, innovative and multidisciplinary responses leveraging the full operational, regulatory and enforcement capabilities of the ABF and further to coordinate the integration of ABF's efforts with whole-of-government partners to assure Australia's supply chain integrity.

The ABF is placing greater rigour and focus in the priority area of trade enforcement by building its trade enforcement expertise to enhance its capabilities to prevent, deter, detect and disrupt the intentional and negligent manipulation of border controls.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy

The ABF leads Australia's whole-of-government response to modern slavery and implements the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* and Australia's *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2020-25* (National Action Plan). The ABF coordinates responses to this issue across government, civil society and business, and supports domestic and international engagement on modern slavery issues.

Business and Supply Chains

The ABF delivers the Government's operational and supply chain response to modern slavery by implementing the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Act). The Act establishes requirements for over 3,000 business and other entities, such as large charities, to prepare annual statements outlining the actions they have taken to assess and address modern slavery risks in their global operations and supply chains (Reporting Requirement). The Reporting Requirement applies to entities operating in Australia with over AUD \$100 million consolidated annual revenue. The Reporting Requirement also requires the Commonwealth Government to prepare an annual statement covering the operations of all non-corporate Commonwealth entities (agencies and departments).

To support public accountability, the ABF publishes all statements made under the Act in the public-facing *Online Register of Modern Slavery Statements* (Online Register).

The ABF's Modern Slavery Business Engagement Unit is responsible for implementing the Act. This unit advises businesses on compliance, undertakes awareness raising and promotes best practice. The unit coordinates the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Statement, and published the *Commonwealth Modern Slavery Statement 2019-20* on 9 December 2020.

In May 2020 the Government established a Modern Slavery Expert Advisory Group (Expert Advisory Group), comprising 22 experts in combating modern slavery and supply chain management. The Modern Slavery Business Engagement Unit consults the Expert Advisory Group to deliver the Government's business and supply chain response to modern slavery.

Criminal Justice

The ABF delivers the Government's criminal justice response to modern slavery by:

- developing policy and legislative responses to modern slavery issues;
- monitoring the effectiveness of criminal offences in the Criminal Code;
- supporting Australian Federal Police investigation of criminal offences and referring victims to the Australian Government-funded Support for Trafficked People Program;
- leading implementation of the National Action Plan;
- driving engagement with business and civil society through the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery; and
- funding specialist civil society organisations to deliver projects to prevent and respond to modern slavery issues.

The ABF leads the development of a proposed Commonwealth Forced Marriage Protection Order scheme to complement existing criminal offences and provide flexible civil remedies. Stakeholder consultation on the proposed model is ongoing.

Grant Funding

The Government's whole-of-community response to modern slavery relies on partnerships with civil society. Since 2008, the Government has awarded more than \$6.2 million to non-government organisations (NGOs) to support efforts to combat modern slavery, including education initiatives.

The 2020-21 Budget allocated a further \$4.4 million over five years in grant funding for civil society, business and academia to deliver projects that combat modern slavery in Australia, including:

- building Australian business' capacity to respond to modern slavery in supply chains, and
- research to support evidence-based policy on modern slavery in Australia.

The ABF administers this funding to specialist NGOs through the whole-of-government Community Grants Hub initiative (Grants Hub). The ABF is developing a grants program, in collaboration with the Grants Hub, to deliver the funds recently allocated in the 2020-21 Budget.

International Engagement

The ABF delivers international capacity building on modern slavery issues, including as co-chair of the *Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons*.

4.4 Border Management

Traveller and Cargo Clearance

The ABF protects Australia's border to facilitate legitimate travel and trade while at the same time, ensuring compliance with regulatory controls. The ABF safeguards our border from people who seek to threaten Australia's safety and security, commit immigration fraud or evade payment of duties and taxes.

Through an intelligence-informed and risk-based approach, the ABF inspects baggage, cargo and mail to ensure that people and goods entering and leaving Australia adhere to our strict border controls. ABF officers use specialist technology at maritime ports, airports, depots, mail centres and have mobile detection capabilities to guard against terrorism and the movement of illegal or illicit products or substances.

The ABF also operates container examination facilities (CEFs) in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Fremantle, Adelaide, Newcastle, Darwin, and Townsville. They enable rapid inspection and physical examination of selected sea cargo to assist with detecting prohibited goods and verifying compliance with import and export requirements.

Simplified Trade System

The Australian Government committed to the implementation of a Simplified Trade System in the Budget 2020-21, which reinforces the Government's commitment to fostering and facilitating trade. The ABF is focused on cutting red tape, improving service delivery, and enhancing supply chain integrity and risk management as part of the Simplified Trade System. An important part of this initiative is the development of a Trade Single Window. The ABF is progressing foundational regulatory reform and data interoperability work that will lead to a future Trade Single Window, which provides a seamless point of entry, identification verification and trade approvals across government.

The ABF also continues to progress other modernisation initiatives that will inform the future development of a Trade Single Window, including a Trans-Tasman Secure Trade Lane with New Zealand to use import and export data to facilitate the movement of low risk trans-Tasman trade; work with Singapore under the bilateral Digital Economy Agreement, including trialling the digital exchange of trade documentation and exploring how our trade single windows could be connected to facilitate customs data exchanges; and a feasibility study on Data Pipelines to consider how data from shipping and logistics platforms could inform early cargo risk and clearance decisions. We are also developing a new operating model for sea and air cargo intervention and evaluating the performance and cost of automated and integrated cargo screening options at international air and seaports.

Trusted Trader Program

Australian Trusted Trader reduces red tape for Trusted Traders at the border, improves certainty in export markets, and expedites the flow of their cargo in and out of Australia, which means faster access to market.

Administered by the ABF, Trusted Trader is free and accredits Australian businesses with compliant trade practices and a secure supply chain. Once accredited, businesses have access to a growing range of benefits that simplify their customs processes.

Eligible businesses:

- importers, exporters and service providers
- active in the international supply chain for 2 years
- financially solvent
- have an Australian Business Number.

Industry Engagement

The ABF will advance our industry engagement capability in 2021 by developing an Industry Engagement Strategy to guide national and local partnerships with industry under the new operating model. Traveller Policy and Industry Engagement Branch will also contribute to enhancing Portfolio-wide industry engagement by hosting the 2021 Home Affairs Portfolio Industry Summit. In addition, the Branch will continue to deliver our program of engagement on trade, travel and customs policy through peak national industry forums including the ABF Commissioner's Customs Advisory Board, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation, the National Passenger Facilitation Committee and the National Sea Passenger Facilitation Committee.

Border Systems and Program Management

The Border Systems and Program Management is the central channel and broker for ABF business change. The Branch oversees project delivery and represents ABF business needs in capability development, project implementation and technology management. BSPM has a key focus on maturing their change management capability to support adoption of change and realisation of project benefits.

Key strategic priorities include:

- ensuring that new port and infrastructure capabilities meet border agency requirements by overseeing projects, conducting analysis, managing risks and engaging with industry stakeholders.
- ensuring that new systems, equipment and operating models being introduced into service enhance the ABF's capability to detect prohibited items in the international mail and air and sea cargo.
- delivering ABF capability to streamline the traveller experience in sea and airports.

Western Sydney Airport

The ABF is working closely with partner agencies on border clearance requirements for Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport, with airport operations scheduled to commence in 2026. The construction of the airport provides an opportunity for Government and industry to work together towards border modernisation and improving trade facilitation, to co-design a best practice airport that meets Government's requirements now and into the future.

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5 Our response to COVID-19

The ABF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily through the rapid implementation of Australia's border controls, has been a critical factor in slowing the introduction and spread of the virus throughout Australia. Given Australia's geographical proximity to the outbreak, it was those early decisive actions that have put us in a much stronger position than other nations around the world.

Strengthened border measures

Following Australia's first confirmed COVID-19 case on 25 January 2020, the ABF worked quickly with partner agencies, airlines, and industry partners to implement the Government's decisions and strengthen our border measures. Many of these changes were unprecedented and were implemented within hours of each new measure being announced.

As the situation overseas started to deteriorate, the ABF played a key role in bringing Australians home on Government-assisted repatriation flights from China and Japan. More than 700 people were evacuated from Wuhan, China and after disembarking the *Diamond Princess* in Tokyo. The ABF worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Health to facilitate these passengers to board flights, clear customs and immigration processes mid-flight, and then transfer to North West Point on Christmas Island or Howard Springs in Darwin to undergo quarantine before returning home.

The quick establishment of quarantine facilities at North West Point and Howard Springs demonstrated our capability, agility, and close working relationships with partner agencies in what were unique and challenging environments.

Working ahead of the border, ABF officers engaged with airlines to ensure travellers who had been in high-risk countries or were unwell did not board flights to Australia. Officers helped screen passengers arriving in Australia, handing out fact sheets and isolation declaration cards to incoming travellers, and referring unwell people to biosecurity officers.

Alongside the Department, the ABF implemented a new regime to manage an exemptions process that permitted international travel in a limited set of circumstances. This process was consistent with relevant health advice and the public messaging for Australians abroad to return home. Since the introduction of travel restrictions thousands of applications have been processed often within very tight timeframes. This has required a significant and sustained surge of officers from across the organisation.

On 15 March 2020, a ban on international cruise ship arrivals was announced by the Government, with exceptions for approximately 32 vessels that were already *en route* to, or in, Australian waters at the time of the announcement. In the weeks following, a sustained and targeted ABF effort saw the departure of all 32 internationally flagged cruise ships and their approximately 20,000 crew from Australian waters. The last vessel to leave an Australian port departed on 28 April 2020.

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5.1 Sustaining border protection outcomes

The work carried out by the ABF has not stopped as a result of COVID-19. Our borders remain strong. It is business as usual when it comes to detecting illicit substances, stopping illegal imports and preventing worker exploitation.

We continue to target the black economy and criminal syndicates taking advantage of COVID-19 to circumvent border controls and import prohibited and illicit goods. We have surged officers at air and sea ports, to examine sea containers and items sent through the mail centre and air cargo consignments. We are still detecting and stopping illicit goods coming into Australia.

The ABF continues to reinforce the integrity of Australia's migration system by identifying, disrupting, and deterring facilitators responsible for systemic and deliberate exploitation of foreign workers. Operation BATTENRUN has targeted unscrupulous labour hire intermediaries and those exploiting foreign workers through issuing warnings and infringement notices, and at the more serious end visa cancellations, detention, and removal from Australia.

COVID-19 has impacted our ability to remove unlawful non-citizens from Australia. The number of removals undertaken has contracted this year due to offshore travel restrictions and limited availability of commercial flights. This places additional pressure on the immigration detention network and has a significant impact on detention populations.

We have put in place comprehensive measures to protect those accommodated at immigration detention facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes a range of protective and preventative measures in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) *National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Correctional and Detention Facilities in Australia*. The ABF will continue to monitor and adjust its COVID-19 response arrangements to the advice provided by health officials and through any updated CDNA guidelines.

Air and sea arrivals

From 11 March 2020 until 15 November 2020, a total of 1,027,509 travellers arrived in Australia by air and sea, a reduction of 93.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2019. Of these:

- 749,585 travellers arrived by air (95 per cent reduction).
- 277,924 travellers arrived by sea (26.1 per cent reduction).

Air and sea cargo

The reduction in the number of flights entering Australia has resulted in a shift from the air cargo environment to sea channels where smaller consignments have been consolidated during the COVID period (compared to 2019).

There has been a significant rise in e-commerce (such as on-line shopping), which has resulted in an increase in the total number of air cargo consignments compared to the previous year.

However, the number of large air cargo consignments (400kg+) has decreased compared to the previous year, which reflects the impact of COVID-19 on larger business activity.

While overall consignments has increased, the total weight of air cargo is lower than previous years, indicative of larger numbers of smaller weight parcels. The cancellation of commercial passenger flights as a result of COVID-19 has also resulted in less air cargo availability on commercial aircraft.

While this year has seen unprecedented travel restrictions, Australia's borders have not closed. Air and sea cargo continues to arrive into Australia with goods that the country relies on. The ABF has kept the economy moving as much as possible, while maintaining our commitment to ensuring our borders remain strong.

Operation HANGFIRE (Import and export of critical goods)

The ABF initiated a number of temporary measures to address border risks in the import and export of air, mail, and sea cargo. Operational solutions were tailored to uphold strengthened export controls that prevented the diversion of critical medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) from Australia while the expedient import clearance of essential goods was enacted without compromise to existing border controls designed to protect the Australian community from harm. On 11 December 2020, amendments made to the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* (Customs Regulations) on 30 March 2020 were repealed, signalling an end to HANGFIRE operational activity in the export environment. The repeal of the legislation does not alter the ABF's commitment to intercept and examine 'essential goods' being imported that pose a heightened risk of being substandard quality, counterfeit or intended for illegitimate use, including future vaccines.

The ABF has referred over 28 million facemasks to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in an effort to ensure relevant Australian safety standards were being adhered to by Australian importers. Importation controls extended beyond the examination of PPE, and a range of unapproved medicines and medical devices were examined and referred, such as 76,252 COVID-19 test kits, 21,660 Hydroxychloroquine tablets and significant volumes of prohibited drug, Ephdra.

Recently the ABF in partnership with TGA has established a working level Joint Planning Group (JPG) with relevant stakeholders across Government to work through the complexities of facilitating legitimate vaccines across the border, while ensuring border controls remain effective in identifying and intercepting illegitimate medicines.

Through the JPG the ABF has established a border process that will enable legitimate COVID-19 vaccines to be identified pre-border and given expedited border clearance through to a secure domestic distribution network managed by Department of Health. By defining the legitimate vaccine importation pathway, the ABF in partnership with TGA can apply appropriate intervention strategies against suspect goods under Australia's Therapeutic Goods legislation, which is a long-standing and effective framework for controlling the entry of illegitimate medicaments into the Australian community.

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Operation OVERARCH

ABF-led Operation Overarch was stood up to execute National Security Committee decisions in implementing enhanced Torres Strait (TS) border measures in response to COVID-19. The purpose of Op Overarch is to enhance border operations within the TS Protected Zone (TSPZ) through deter, detect and respond functions directed at countering the potential for COVID-19 spread and illegal Papua New Guinea border arrivals into the AEEZ and broader TS region.

Since its inception, Overarch has been achieving whole-of-government (WoG) intent with a noticeable reduction in cross-border incursions (including medical arrivals into Saibai and Boigu Islands) over the March to December 2020 period. Op Overarch has involved a WoG response with support from federal and state entities that include Maritime Border Command, Queensland Police Service, Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and Queensland Health. The team also work on cross border issues with PNG State of Emergency Controller, Constabulary, Customs Service, Immigration and Customs, and PNG Defence Force (specifically the PNG Defence Force Maritime Element).

Operation BARITONE

To support the Australian Government's response to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19 within the community, Operation BARITONE was established in May 2020. The national operation focuses on non-citizens who are not complying with state and territory quarantine, self-isolation and social distancing regulations. From commencement to 31 August 2020, the following activities have occurred:

- 225 warnings issued
- 11 Notices of Intent to Consider Cancellation (NOICC)
- five visas cancelled.

5.2 Inbound and outbound travel exemptions

Australia's travel restrictions regime is a key government measure that has successfully limited the spread of COVID-19 in the Australian community. Travel restrictions have been in place since 20 March (inwards restrictions) and 25 March (outwards restrictions). Policy settings are reviewed regularly in line with the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC).

The travel exemption process has gone from an emergency response in February and March to a high-volume business process, with strong expectations from clients and key stakeholders about responsiveness and transparency. Decisions to approve exemptions must be balanced against the potential health risks posed to the Australian community by international travel. The Minister for Home Affairs has responsibility for Australia's travel restrictions and the travel exemptions process.

From March 2020, travel restrictions have been in place prohibiting travel of all foreign nationals into Australia, and Australian citizens and permanent residents from leaving Australia, unless they fall within certain exempt categories.

The ABF Commissioner or authorised decision makers may consider additional exemptions from travel restrictions, including for persons with critical skills, or for compelling and compassionate reasons to enter or depart Australia. Individual exemption categories are outlined on the Department's website: <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions>.

On 24 July 2020, Minister Dutton set processing standards for travel exemptions as follows:

- inwards applications to be finalised within seven days
- outwards applications to be finalised within 48 hours

These service standards have been consistently maintained since mid-August 2020. In the week ending 13 December, 99.5 per cent of outbound requests and 98.38 per cent of inbound requests were finalised within the Minister's service standard expectations.

As at 5:00pm, 18 December 2020, 204,724 outwards travel exemption requests and 192,921 inwards travel exemption requests have been received.

On 17 September 2020, the *Commissioner's Inwards Decision making statement, Commissioner's Guidelines* and two Operational Directives were published on the Department's website to increase transparency about the exemption assessment process and decision making. Version three of the Commissioner's Guidelines was published on 14 December 2020.

Travel exemption guidelines and policy settings are reviewed as circumstances in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic evolve. Recent updates include changes to the critical skills considerations relevant for travel exemption assessments, to align with the Government's priorities to support Australia's economic recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.

Legislative Framework

Inwards travel restrictions are implemented through policy, and relate to people who are neither citizens nor permanent residents (or their immediate family). Non-citizens travelling to Australia who are not exempt may be considered for visa cancellation under s116(1)(e) of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act) on the basis that they may present a health risk.

On 25 March 2020, the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, issued the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Overseas Travel Ban Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020* (the Overseas Travel Restrictions) to give effect to the outbound travel ban which commenced at midday on 25 March 2020.

Outlook

Australia's travel restrictions policy settings will continue to evolve throughout 2021 to support Australia's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a phased reopening of international borders.

The ABF will focus on working closely with industry and national and international counterparts to secure the border and contribute to Australia's economic recovery.

The modernisation of our trade and travel systems and regulations remains a priority in support of the next phase of the pandemic.

5.3 Opening the borders as it becomes safe to do so

On 2 October 2020, the Federal Government announced the establishment of the first stage of a Safe Travel Zone between Australia and New Zealand. This commenced from 12.01am 16 October 2020 when Australia received its first green zone flight from New Zealand.

Travellers who have been in New Zealand in the preceding 14 days, and who have not been in an area designated as a COVID-19 hotspot are eligible to board a quarantine-free (green zone) flight to participating states and territories in Australia.

The ABF has worked extensively with the airline and airport industry, other Government agencies and New Zealand representatives to implement the multi-layered approach for a progressive re-opening of the border without compromising the health and safety of the Australian public.

Work has been undertaken with each of the airport operators across the major airports in each state and territory to design separate red and green pathways for passengers arriving via safe travel zone flights. Further work was conducted with the Department of Health to seek endorsement of airport plans by the state and territory health authority in each location.

Australia Travel Declaration (ATD)

The Department of Home Affairs and the ABF have developed the ATD to capture important information to help Australian governments with managing health, quarantine and contact tracing.

The ATD is a web browser solution that allows a traveller to create an account, enter their passport details, flight details, and provide responses to questions relating to health, travel history, quarantine requirements. The consolidated responses are then provided to the Department of Health's National Incident Room to share with relevant stakeholders, including state and territory agencies.

Travellers are asked to complete the ATD 72 hours prior to boarding their flight. This provides time for state and territory bodies to be made aware of the different needs identified by travellers in their declaration.

The ATD is for all travellers entering Australia, including:

- Australian citizens and permanent residents
- people who are automatically exempt from the travel restrictions, and
- people who have been granted an individual exemption to the current travel restrictions.

We are working with Commonwealth and state/territory agencies to share information to facilitate the gradual and safe reopening of Australia's borders.

Digital Passenger Declaration

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the information contained on the Incoming Passenger Card (IPC), has had to be supplemented by additional health related declarations. The Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD) will combine and integrate multiple manual processes. Digitising this process will help eliminate processing delays resulting from the need to scan paper cards and enter data manually. The DPD will support faster data sharing with Commonwealth and state and territory departments. This will significantly enhance the national response to COVID-19 and contact tracing efforts in particular. The DPD will be a critical enabler for Australia's border operations while

recovering from and reacting to persisting health threats resulting from COVID-19. By digitising the IPC, we are assisting to modernise and streamline the Department's services, which will have many advantages for travellers and ABF officers, as well as significant benefits for the aviation and maritime industry.

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6 Legislation and Powers

6.1 ABF Powers and Delegations

The ABF exercises a range of legislative powers to complement and support its law enforcement, revenue collection, trade facilitation, regulatory, compliance and monitoring roles.

The *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) is the primary statute enabling 'officers of Customs' to undertake a broad range of border-related activities predominately related to the movement of goods. Under the Customs Act and other relevant legislation, an 'officer of Customs' includes any ABF officer and other Departmental employee.

The *Migration Act 1958* (Migration Act) is the primary statute enabling 'officers' to undertake activities for the purposes of the migration programme, such as processing and questioning unauthorised maritime arrivals, assessing character concerns of non-citizens, granting, refusing or cancelling visas, and monitoring compliance with visa conditions.

The responsible Minister will have responsibility for administering a number of Acts, which specifically relate to the functions and activities of the ABF, including:

- *Australian Border Force Act 2015*
- *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*
- *Customs Act 1901, other than Part XVB and Part XVC*¹
- *Maritime Powers Act 2013*
- *Migration Act 1958*.

Powers of Officers

ABF officers are able to exercise a range legislative powers to perform functions in specific circumstances or certain geographical areas following one or more pre-conditions being met. These powers may either be vested directly in an officer or delegated to an officer (from the Minister, Secretary or ABF Commissioner).

In certain circumstances, officers may exercise a range of powers under other State and Territory legislation and under non-portfolio Commonwealth legislation, such as:

- *Australian Passports Act 2005*
- *Crimes Act 1914*
- *Criminal Code Act 1995*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1991*
- *Navigation Act 2012*

¹ Part XVB – Special Provisions Relating to Anti-Dumping Duties and Part XVC – International Trade Remedies Forum is administered by the Anti-Dumping Commission in the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*
- *Crimes at Sea Act 2000.*

Delegations

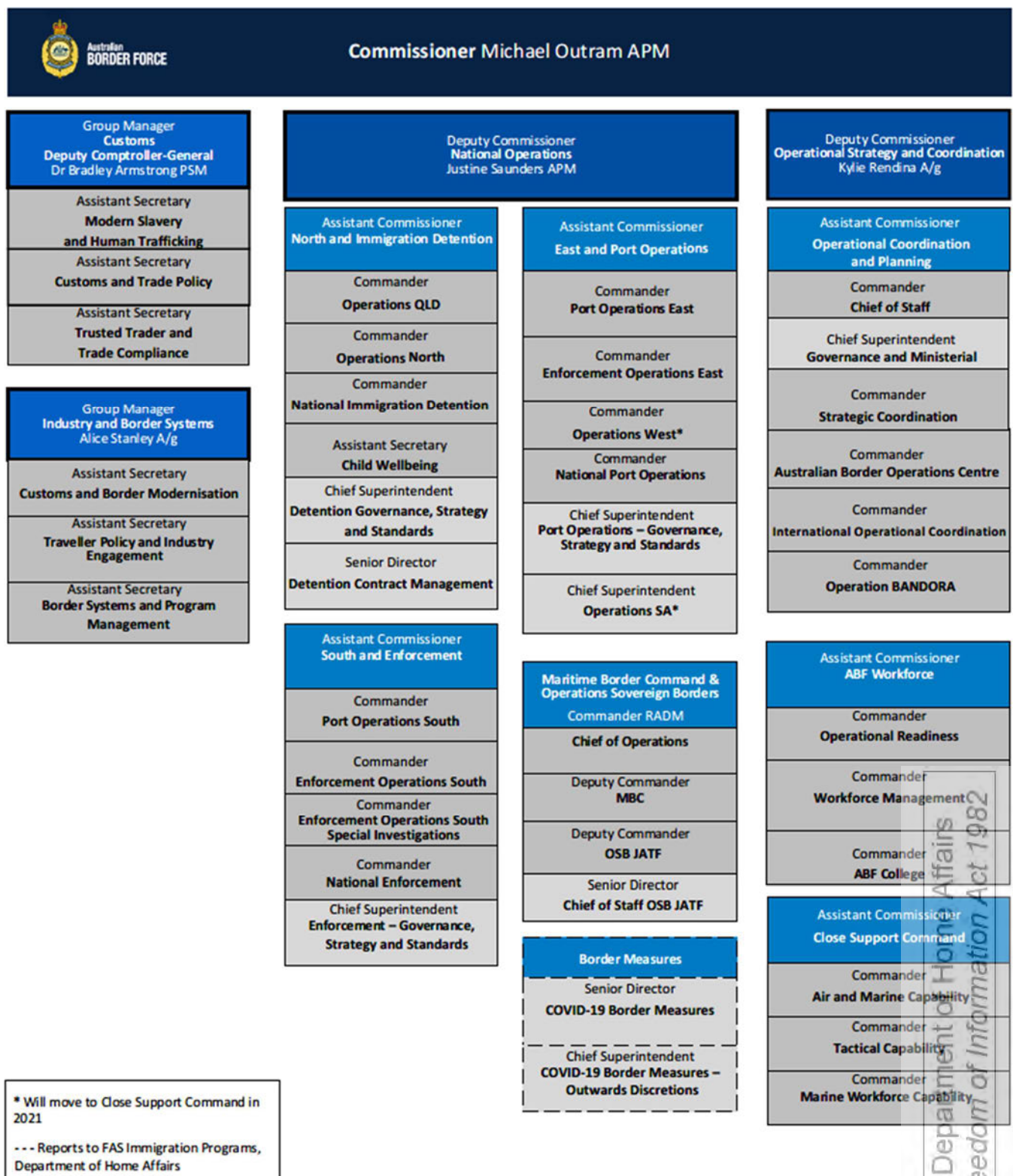
The legislation administered by the ABF contains the broad structure of legal rules under which non-citizens, goods and cargo operate. The delegated powers are broad, ranging from migration, questioning, searching and detaining persons to the use of firearms in certain circumstances.

Officers can only exercise a power if they have been delegated or authorised to do so by the Minister, Secretary or Commissioner/Comptroller-General of Customs in the relevant Instrument of Delegation or Authorisation.

There are three possible ways any given power, duty or function set out in an Act is exercised:

1. The person vested with the power, duty or function may exercise it themselves.
2. Where the Act enables it, a power, duty or function may be delegated pursuant to an instrument of delegation and exercised in the name of the delegate.
3. Where the enactment does not include a delegation provision, and the power, duty or function is of an administrative nature, the person in whom it is vested may authorise, expressly or impliedly, another person to exercise it in the name of the person vested with it, that is, as an agent.

Appendix 1 – Australian Border Force Organisational Structure



Official: Sensitive

Operational Strategies and Coordination Group

ABF Workforce

ABF Workforce Command focuses on our people and workforce. It is responsible for strategic workforce planning, data modelling and analytics; workforce transformation and innovation; culture and behaviour initiatives; recruitment, attraction and retention strategies; managing the ABF's operational safety program including policy, systems, training and armories; developing and delivering the vocational and leadership learning and development needs of frontline officers through the ABF College.

Successful delivery of these priorities ensures ABF officers have the right skills, knowledge, certifications, uniform and equipment to safely and competently perform their role.

Close Support Command

Close Support Command is responsible for delivering maritime, aviation and tactical capability to front line operations in supporting our mission to protect Australia's borders and enable legitimate trade and travel.

This includes management and deployment of ABF Cutters, management and capability of the maritime workforce, Detector Dog Program breeding, training and operations, covert physical surveillance and digital forensic capabilities.

Operational Coordination and Planning

Operational Coordination and Planning is responsible for the operations coordination capabilities of organisational strategy, planning and governance (including risk and quality assurance frameworks) coordinated across functions, centralized reporting including performance reporting, operational coordination, governance, planning and critical incident response as well as Chief of Staff, ministerial and media coordination.

National Operations Group

South and Enforcement Command

Enforcement Command is an investigation and enforcement capability focussing on detecting, deterring, disrupting, and dismantling operational and strategic border threats through field operation activities and the investigation and enforcement of serious offences against the *Customs Act 1901* and *Migration Act 1958*, as well as other legislation pertaining to the illegal movement of people and goods across the Australian border continuum. Regionally this role will oversee the operational delivery and budgetary performance in Victoria and Tasmania, as well as high level industry/stakeholder representation, as required, in those regions.

East and Port Operations Command

East and Port Operations Command delivers operational effect to the eastern region, protects Australia's international gateways, including international airports and seaports while facilitating the movement of people and goods across the border. The Command is responsible for the functional management of the facilitation of legitimate trade and travel and guides the operational settings in the prevention, deterrence and detection of the illegal movement of people across Australia's border and the unlawful movement of prohibited, restricted, or regulated goods into Australia.

North and Immigration Detention

North and Immigration Detention Command is responsible for the implementation of onshore Immigration Detention as well as Operational command of ABF activities in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Maritime Border Command/Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders

Maritime Border Command (MBC) is a multi-agency taskforce within the ABF responsible for civil law enforcement in the Australian Maritime Domain. MBC combines the resources and expertise of the ABF and Australian Defence Force to deliver a coordinated approach to Australia's offshore civil maritime security. Operation Sovereign Borders was established in 2013 as a whole-of-government enterprise to protect the integrity of the Australian border, and prevent loss of life at sea by denying an irregular pathway to settlement in Australia, and deterring vulnerable people from attempting dangerous maritime ventures.

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Customs Group

Customs Group is responsible for customs and trade policy, trade compliance, supply chain integrity including the Trusted Trader program, modern slavery and human trafficking, customs international engagement.

Customs and Trade Policy Branch

The Customs and Trade Policy Branch is responsible for policy and legislation governing the movement of goods across Australia's border. This includes the policy framework for the importation, exportation, reporting, revenue, movement and clearance of goods at the border, and administering Australia's prohibited import and export regimes. The branch leads the Home Affairs portfolio's response to black economy risks, strategic engagement with the World Customs Organization, and the international aspects of the Australian Trusted Trader program.

Trusted Trader and Trade Compliance:

The Trusted Trader and Trade Compliance Branch administers the Australian Trusted Trader program and provides guidance on trade services to create a strong, secure and efficient border. It oversees the National Trade Advice Centre and Australia's Tariff Concession System, which assists industry by removing customs duties on input goods that are not produced locally. The branch leads the Australian Border Force's national trade and goods compliance activity, which is focussed on reducing evasion of regulatory and revenue obligations. It also licenses border service providers such as depot and warehouse operators and customs brokers.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch

The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch coordinates whole-of-government policy on modern slavery and human trafficking. The Branch administers the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018, which includes advice to business, managing the Government's online register for modern slavery statements, and preparing the Commonwealth's annual modern slavery statement. The Branch leads Australia's broader criminal justice response to modern slavery, including developing legislation and implementing the National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-25 and its associated grants program. The Branch delivers international capacity building for partner governments in the Indo-Pacific region to combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

Industry and Border Systems Group

The Industry and Border Systems Group is the conduit for capability and systems between the ABF and the Department of Home Affairs. The Group has been established to develop, coordinate and deliver capability to enhance the ABF's operational effect.

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