



Australian
BORDER FORCE

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Minute

To: Commissioner, Gavan Reynolds AO

Through: Deputy Commissioner Strategy and Capability

Date: 1 December 2025

Ref No: EC25-005738

8/15/12. Good brief.
JH (PDMS cleared)

Australia Travel Declaration – Next Steps

Timing

At your convenience

Purpose

To:

1. Provide you with an update on the current progress of the Australia Travel Declaration (ATD) trial; and
2. Update you on the plan for a national production rollout of the ATD.

Background

3. In partnership with Qantas, a limited trial of the ATD at Brisbane airport commenced on 21 October 2024. Over 135,000 ATDs have been successfully lodged. All Qantas flights into Brisbane are offering the ATD and it is available on six Qantas flights in Sydney with plans to extend to all Qantas flights from March 2026.
4. The ATD trial has proven successful. The solution includes officer tools to support a digital exit marshal and primary line and from March an offline capability to support business continuity and a family solution.

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S. 47C(1)

Current Plans

7. Current plans see completion of rollout to Sydney with Qantas in March 2026. Rollout to include Qantas flights in Melbourne is being planned for March-April 2026 with Perth Terminal 3, Adelaide, and Darwin to follow shortly after. s. 47G(1)(a)
[REDACTED]
8. Works to enable WSI will be undertaken by the WSI program team as part of operational readiness for day one operations and are budgeted for under the WSI program. s. 47C(1)
[REDACTED]
9. Sustainment funds for the current ICT solution and equipment of \$450,000 per annum will be required for the 2027/28 financial year and beyond if funding is not forthcoming. Ongoing sustainment costs for the trial solution are \$150,000 per year from 2026/27 to cover training, replacement of equipment (e.g. podiums/laptops) and travel until another funding source can be found.

Future Activities

10. Current funded plans do not extend to rollout to other airlines and airports, or to ss. 47C(1)
[REDACTED]
11. Costs will need to be developed with ICT to cover:
 - a. Full rollout of the ATD to all airports, seaports, military bases and other off-terminal sites
 - b. Full integration with back-end systems
 - c. Departures solution – trial and procurement and Combined International Departures and Domestic Operations.
 - d. ATD dashboard with role-based access internal/external users
 - e. International to Domestic (I2D) transfer productionised and rolled out
 - f. Family gate productionised and rolled out
 - g. Skip the kiosk productionised and rolled out
12. s. 47G(1)(a)
[REDACTED]
13. The current planning with ICT indicates that full rollout of the ATD to all airports, seaports, military bases and other off-terminal sites including full integration with back-end systems is likely early 2028. We are continuing to work with Data and Digital Services Division (DDSD) on both costing and timing.

Issues

14. There is reputational risk if the ATD is not delivered for WSI and that delays would reduce urgency for Government to implement, impact project momentum and loss of industry connection, which has been cultivated over time with both airports and airlines.
15. Discussions have been held with Technology Division colleagues on options and timings to expand the ATD to other ports and all passengers and DDSD have recommended:
 - a. ATD to be available for use at all airports but for Qantas flights only via the Qantas frequent flyer app s. 47G(1)(a)
[REDACTED]

and Darwin. There is potential for Qantas to add services at the Gold Coast, but these are still subject to commercial decisions.

b. s. 47C(1)

16. This expansion does not require any changes for the current trial solution. DDSD have advised that integration with the Border Clearance System (BCS), which is currently in development, is required to progress beyond this (that is to all airlines, cruise operators, all passengers and all ports). Attachment B provides a slide to depict the rollout and status for this phase.

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

19. Strategy and Border Modernisation continue to work with DDSD will monitor progress of the rollout and impacts on schedule. Discussions are occurring on additional trial activities that could be undertaken in the interim that add to ATD capabilities

20. s. 47G(1)(a)

21. The prolonged delay in rollout will likely lead to significant complaints from industry and reputational damage in the media and the with the public.

22. s. 47G(1)(a)

Consultation

Data and Digital Services Division, ABF Program Delivery Working Group.

Recommendation

It is recommended that you:

Note the content of this brief.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

d/Please Discuss]

Tharanie Vithanage
First Assistant Secretary

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2 December 2025

Gavan Reynolds AO
Commissioner
15 December 2025

Contact Officer: Don Jordan

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Attachments:

Attachment A – Indicative costs for phase one rollout

Attachment B – ATD Rollout slide deck – phase one

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S. 47C(1)

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