



# INDUSTRY SUMMIT

## 2020 Home Affairs Portfolio Industry Summit Communique

The annual Home Affairs Portfolio Industry Summit was held virtually for the first time on 23 and 24 November 2020.

As the Portfolio's premier industry engagement event, the Summit hosted 575 industry leaders and representatives across government, peak bodies, academia, the diplomatic corps and civil society.

This year's theme was *National Recovery: building the partnership between Home Affairs and Australian Industry* and focussed on discussing priorities for Australia's economic recovery and how the Portfolio would partner with industry on reform initiatives.

Key highlights of the Summit were:

- The Summit keynote address by the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Home Affairs.
- The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management and the Hon Jason Wood MP, Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs addressing Summit attendees.
- Mr Michael Pezzullo AO, Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs and Mr Michael Outram APM, Commissioner of the Australian Border Force (ABF) recognising the successful engagement with industry throughout 2020 and providing views on the future direction for that partnership.

Leadership panels held on each day brought together senior government and industry representatives to discuss the future partnership between the Portfolio and industry.

- The Leadership Panel on Day 1 included Secretary Pezzullo and other Portfolio agency heads and Tom Seymour, Chief Executive Officer Price Waterhouse Coopers discussing *Framing the Future for National Security: strategic challenges now and into the future*.
- The Leadership Panel on Day 2 comprised of ABF Commissioner Outram, Peter Verwer AO, Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Global Business and Talent Attraction, Carla Wilshire OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Migration Council of Australia, Margy Osmond, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism and Transport Forum, and Dianne Tipping, Chair, Export Council of Australia and discussed *Partnering with industry to reopen Australia: paving a path through COVID-19*.

Summit participants engaged in twelve live online workshop panels covering key priority areas of focus for the Portfolio, including: border transformation, national security, community partnership, technology, trade simplification, trusted and secure identities, misinformation, cyber security, modern slavery, crisis preparedness, migration policy and supply chain resilience.

Three virtual exhibitions allowed participants to learn about how to employ refugees, how to provide information of suspicious activities to Border Watch and the work of the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce.

## Prosperity

The Summit provided the opportunity to highlight initiatives, capabilities and core functions the Home Affairs Portfolio delivers that contribute to Australia's prosperity through enabling a globally connected and open economy and society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous effect on the aviation and maritime travel and cargo sectors, all of which are critical to Australia's economic prosperity. *Workshop 1. Transforming the border in a COVID world* highlighted the ABF's collaboration with government and industry partners to transform the border and advance recovery. The Portfolio undertook to continue increased collaboration as we tackle the next phases of reopening of the borders and recovery towards COVID-normal and as we look forward to the next 12-18 months.

The Portfolio is focused on investing in and consolidating its technologies to develop the capabilities needed to deliver our key services. *Workshop 4. Technology investment supporting Australia's Economic Recovery* discussed how the Portfolio is seeking to leverage the expertise of our technology partners to improve our business systems. The Portfolio is committed to engaging early and partnering with industry in future technology investment and capability planning.

The efficiency and resilience of international trade will shape Australia's long-term prosperity and recovery from COVID-19. *Workshop 5. The role of trade simplification in economic recovery* considered the significant opportunities to partner with businesses to co-design the simplification of our trade system. The Portfolio agreed to actively engage businesses on co-design priorities for regulatory reform and to standardise data in preparation for the development of a future Trade Single Window, which will improve Australia's competitiveness.

Australia is experiencing the deepest recession since the Great Depression. Migration policy is a key lever to support economic and population growth. The Portfolio remains committed to consulting stakeholders for their views on migration policy both in the short- and long-term. *Workshop 11. Migration Policy in the wake of COVID-19* provided an opportunity to facilitate discussion on the potential future state of migration policy as Australia recovers from the impacts of COVID-19 and marked the beginning of public consultation on the planning for the 2021-22 Migration Program.

## Security

Workshops on security threats highlighted how the Portfolio's partnership with industry protects Australia and Australians from risks to our national security, natural environment, digital economy and international supply chains.

The global pandemic has altered some of the national security threats Australia faces but has not reduced risks. Attendees received an update on national security at *Workshop 2. National security outlook – The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national security environment*. The Portfolio will continue to provide advice to industry on how the perpetrators of terrorism and foreign interference are seizing upon the opportunities presented by the pandemic and the work of the Australian Government to protect us.

*Workshop 6. The importance of trusted and secure identities in recovery* considered trusted and secure identities as critical enablers of Australia's digital economy. The Portfolio will continue to work on strengthening identity practices across government and industry. Work in this area will include enhancing the integrity of identity records that support the creation of digital identities, increasing information sharing across government and improving support to victims of identity crime across Australia.

Cyber security is a critical enabler of a prosperous digital economy and is fundamental to the confidence that Australians have in connecting and engaging online. *Workshop 8. Cyber security and the digital economy* discussed how protecting data, critical infrastructure and systems of national significance is crucial to safeguarding the Australian economy against threats. The Portfolio is committed to working with Australian industry to uplift Australia's cyber security, including through the critical infrastructure and systems of national significant reforms.

Modern slavery can occur in every industry and sector and has severe consequences for victims. Modern slavery also distorts global markets, undercuts responsible business and can pose significant legal and reputational risks to entities. *Workshop 9. Modern Slavery Act: Understanding good practice* highlighted how the Portfolio continues to proactively work with businesses and civil society to implement the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* and equip reporting entities to address modern slavery risks.

Every year, Australian communities face devastating losses caused by disasters. Bushfires, floods, storms, other hazards and their associated consequences have significant impacts on communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment. *Workshop 10. Crisis preparedness* discussed the role of collaboration between governments and industry partners to build resilience. The Portfolio will further our partnership in this area by continuing to facilitate weekly briefings with industry, hosted by Emergency Management Australia (EMA). These briefings promote regular information sharing that allow both government and industry to have greater visibility of potential hazards. EMA has also facilitated preparedness workshops with industry ahead of the high risk weather season, ensuring that our national preparedness efforts are connected and well-coordinated.

Transnational and Serious Organised Crime syndicates are actively seeking to penetrate and embed insiders in the Australian supply chain. The ABF noted ongoing work with industry to ensure business models are strengthened and made more resilient at *Workshop 12. Building resilience to supply chain threats*. The Portfolio agreed to continue to work with industry to strengthen relationships and information sharing, this includes further support for Trusted Traders to increase resilience and strengthen international supply chain security. Industry partners are encouraged to explore the partnership available through the Trusted Trader Program.

## Unity

The Portfolio's work to promote social cohesion was highlighted through workshops that discussed initiatives and programs that engage, support and inform Australian communities.

The AFP plays a significant role in protecting the community during crisis events both domestically and offshore. Ensuring the operational effectiveness for this work requires becoming a trusted partner to local communities and State and Territory authorities. *Workshop 3. Partnering with communities during and after crises* highlighted priorities for community engagement include exploring opportunities to maintain and develop Police and policing in a changing and challenging operating environment.

Misinformation has the potential to divide Australians, disrupt public debate and undermine trust in public institutions. The threat is pronounced during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Government and stakeholders will continue to work together to develop plans to address these challenges. *Workshop 7. Tackling misinformation in crisis* discussed the key challenges associated with misinformation and how Government and stakeholders can respond to them. Participants agreed on the importance of making legitimate and trusted sources of information accessible to Australian communities.