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## Communique

NPFC Meeting 25 February 2026

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the first National Passenger Facilitation Committee (NPFC) meeting of the year at Gold Coast Airport. The meeting was Co-chaired by Ms Tharanie Vithanage, First Assistant Secretary of the Strategy and Border Modernisation, ABF and Mr Ryan Both, Executive General Manager Aviation, Brisbane Airport Corporation. Minutes from the previous meetings held on 16 October 2025 were endorsed by all members.

Members discussed progress on the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) led Seamless Border and Funding Model Roadmap, noting strong collaboration across industry in developing a shared advocacy narrative. Some members acknowledged the value of clear, consistent messaging to support border modernisation outcomes and highlighted the importance of aligning proposed reforms with long term passenger growth, major national milestones and broader airport infrastructure programs. Industry members reaffirmed the need to maintain momentum through continued engagement and evidence based framing.

Members received updates from industry on work underway to progress more integrated departure models, including Common Departures and Combined International Departures and Domestic Operations (CIDDO). Discussion focused on the potential to enhance passenger flow efficiency and infrastructure utilisation, while ensuring security, biosecurity and regulatory integrity remain central to system design. Members acknowledged the importance of harmonised operational settings, robust scenario planning and close coordination between airports, airlines and government agencies.

Members were briefed on developments in the aviation security environment, including advancements in screening capabilities for liquids, aerosols and gels. Members noted that implementation pathways could vary across airports and that careful coordination across the network will be critical to maintaining security outcomes while supporting facilitation.

An update was provided on the THRIVE 2030 action plan and recent Tourism Research Australia forecasts. Members noted revised demand projections and reaffirmed the importance of aligning border facilitation priorities with the outlook for international and domestic travel. The group acknowledged that shared data, clear assumptions and consistent metrics will support more effective planning and engagement across industry and government.

Members noted updates on the development of IATA One ID standards, highlighting their relevance to Australia's passenger modernisation agenda. The discussion acknowledged the role of globally aligned standards in supporting secure, interoperable and privacy protective use of biometric and digital identity solutions across the passenger journey for a seamless, contactless and interoperable travel experience.

Members identified priorities for future meetings, including continued discussion on integrated departure models, aviation security settings and the interaction between policy, technology and operational design. The meeting concluded with members acknowledging the value of constructive collaboration and reaffirming their shared commitment to progressing facilitation outcomes that support a seamless, secure and resilient passenger experience.

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