

Communique NPFC Meeting 24 June 2026

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the second National Passenger Facilitation Committee (NPFC) meeting of the year at ABF Headquarters, Canberra. The meeting was Co-chaired by Ms Tharanie Vithanage, First Assistant Secretary Strategy and Border Modernisation, ABF and Mr Ryan Both, Executive General Manager Aviation, Brisbane Airport Corporation. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 25 February 2026 were endorsed by all members.

Members received a post budget update from government representatives on measures relevant to the tourism, aviation and border sectors, including support for tourism industry capability, infrastructure investment initiatives, export services and ongoing passport modernisation activities. Members were advised that discussions on traveller modernisation initiatives including the Australia Travel Declaration (ATD) and broader border facilitation reforms, remain under active consideration with government. Members acknowledged the continued collaboration between government and industry in progressing these priorities and noted the importance of maintaining a coordinated approach. Following the meeting, the Australian Government announced \$56.1 million in funding for traveller modernisation measures, including the rollout of the ATD, development of new airport and cruise clearance models, and enhanced biosecurity risk assessment capabilities. Further information is available [here](#).

Members received an update on progress of the Combined International Departures and Domestic Operations (CIDDO) initiative, including work undertaken to map passenger journeys, develop future operating models and examine data sharing arrangements between government and industry. Members noted advice that international departure screening requirements remain unchanged and that any future consideration of CIDDO implementation would continue to operate within existing differentiated domestic and international aviation security settings. Members also noted ongoing work to assess biometric-enabled processes, boarding gate interventions, exception handling arrangements and business continuity considerations. Members acknowledged the collaborative efforts of participating airports, airlines and government agencies in progressing the initiative and identifying opportunities to improve passenger facilitation and infrastructure utilisation.

Members received a briefing on the draft Biometric Joint Policy Framework developed to support the trusted exchange of biometric information between industry and government and enable future end-to-end biometric traveller journeys. Members noted that the framework is intended to establish a common approach to the governance, use and sharing of biometric information while aligning with relevant international standards and emerging global practices. Members acknowledged the importance of ensuring future biometric initiatives are supported by consistent governance arrangements and interoperable standards across participating organisations. Members recognised the importance of maintaining public confidence through strong privacy, security and data minimisation principles and supported continued collaboration between government and industry to further develop the framework.

Members received an update on enhanced biosecurity measures implemented in response to the Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa. Members noted the introduction of additional traveller screening arrangements and were advised that implementation had progressed smoothly with the overall risk to Australia remaining low.

Members discussed opportunities to strengthen collaboration on airport redevelopment projects and future facilitation initiatives, recognising the benefits of early engagement between industry and government to support efficient passenger processing and future terminal design outcomes. Members noted the value of developing shared artefacts, policy products and reference materials to support transparency, consistency and broader understanding of the committee's work. Members acknowledged the importance of maintaining momentum through ongoing collaboration to progress traveller facilitation and border modernisation initiatives.

The Chair and Co-chair thanked members for their constructive participation and acknowledged the significant progress being made across the committee's work program. Members reaffirmed their shared commitment to progressing facilitation outcomes that support a seamless, secure and resilient passenger experience.