



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Trade Facilitation Initiatives Working Group

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Communique

TFIWG Meeting 10 April 2025

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the first Trade Facilitation Initiatives Working Group (TFIWG) meeting of the year at ABF Head Quarters in Brindabella Park, ACT with Mr Aaron O'Neill, Commander Customs and Border Modernisation Branch, chairing the meeting. The meeting was conducted during caretaker period.

The Simplified Trade System (STS) Unit provided updates on Regulatory Reform including the development of an Evaluation and Benefits Framework for identifying key metrics to measure and communicate the impact and value of STS initiatives and agency implementation of Regulatory Reform Roadmap projects.

Representatives from the Attorney-General's Department provided an update on the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records. Responses received during the public consultation highlighted the importance of unlocking paperless trade, ensuring consistency in legislation, and fostering industry confidence in electronic transferable records. Reviewing of responses is ongoing which will inform next steps.

Members discussed the draft reporting principles developed as part of the Future Cargo Reporting Model (FCRM) project. This project is focused on designing new ways to engage in cargo reporting to inform future system, process and legislative design work. The draft reporting principles set out the 'who, what, where, why and when' of reporting and concepts that will be further explored as part of reporting model design. The FCRM project will undertake further stakeholder engagement about the draft reporting principles across both government and industry.

Members received an overview of the committee's role in the broader WCO framework and customs environment, and congratulated Ms Wendy Stanton on her appointment as the Chair of the World Customs Organization Regional Private Sector Group – Asia Pacific (WCO-RPSG-AP). The WCO RPSG-AP consults with global supply chain experts to reduce misunderstandings and improve efficiency between private sector and government. Regional groups were established in 2020 to enhance input from different regions, including Asia Pacific. The group's efforts focus on regional representation, cooperation between customs and the private sector, and addressing the needs of SMEs. Their key priorities encompass revenue assurance, trade facilitation, trade security, resilience, and compliance.

The next TFIWG meeting is expected to be held on 20 August 2025.

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