



OFFICIAL

Trade Facilitation Initiatives Working Group

Communique

TFIWG Meeting 16 September 2025

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the second 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 Trade Modernisation Branch, chairing the meeting.

The Co-Chair of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) provided a back brief on the Home Affairs Economic Reform Roundtable and how industry members worked with government to co-design initiatives to be brought before the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Home Affairs for consideration before progressing to the Treasurer's Economic Reform Roundtable.

Members were briefed on the initial discovery work conducted by the Future Cargo Reporting Model Project, including identified challenges, opportunities and themes for change. Next steps include developing models for review by industry stakeholders. Feedback will be sought through a consultation paper, and further in-depth engagements with industry sectors to ensure meaningful collaboration and co-design.

Members were advised of discovery activity that is being undertaken by the ABF and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), as each agency is considering greater adoption of digital identity solutions for accessing agency trade systems. The group noted an area of current focus is on ensuring, where possible, digital identity solutions can accommodate all users. Using access to the ABF's Integrated Cargo System (ICS) via myID and Relationship Authorisation Manager as a scenario, members discussed potential implications for non-citizens and/or other users who may not have the requisite identity documents to obtain a digital ID, or one of the identity strength needed. The ABF noted ongoing engagement with other agencies in this space.

The ABF provided an update on global adjustments with Tariffs and Duties, and noted the global situation is dynamic. The ABF invited industry to provide submissions and views on the removal of nuisance tariffs to the [Treasury consultation webpage](#) by 10 December 2025, advising implementation will be from 1 July 2026.

The ABF proposed to publish an Australian Customs Notice (ACN) to address gaps in currencies in the ICS. The ACN is proposed to identify existing currencies with equivalent conversion rates that are already loaded into the ICS, and this ACN would cover against audits of the system.

The next TFIWG meeting is anticipated to take place in February 2026.