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Trade Facilitation Initiatives Working Group

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Communiqué TFIWG Meeting 28 April 2026

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the Trade Facilitation Initiatives Working Group (TFIWG) on 28 April 2026 at ABF Headquarters and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was chaired by Reginald Boeti, A/g Commander, Customs and Trade Modernisation Branch, alongside newly appointed Industry Co-Chair, Mr Paul Bagnall.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and observers. The Industry Co-Chair introduced himself and highlighted the value of maintaining an open, constructive, and collaborative approach as TFIWG continues its co-design journey. Members endorsed the minutes from the September 2025 meeting and noted the completion of several action items, with a small number remaining in progress.

Members received an update on the Digital Trade Accelerator Program Connect project, including the Cargo Status Application Programming Interface (API), which has been operational since 2025. The API was recognised as an important step in modernising data exchange, offering an additional channel alongside Integrated Cargo System screens and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

The ABF also outlined plans to introduce event-based webhook functionality, expected in mid-2026, which will enable subscribed systems to receive near real-time cargo status updates. Industry members welcomed these developments and discussed the potential to support operational efficiency, increased automation, and enhanced compliance monitoring. Considerations relating to authentication, data governance, system resilience, and coexistence with existing EDI channels were also explored.

TFIWG discussed evolving its meeting approach to further strengthen co-design and collaborative problem solving. Members acknowledged that cargo business model and system modernisation represent a key focus area moving forward. Discussions emphasised the importance of clearly defining scope, objectives, and priorities to support effective and coordinated progress.

There was shared recognition that an incremental, staged approach to reform offers a practical pathway forward, enabling early improvements while managing delivery considerations.

The group explored potential deliverables to support this focus area, including mapping current data requirements across government and industry, reviewing existing data flows, and aligning with international standards and best practice. Members agreed to continue refining the problem definition and future state vision, which will inform development of the TFIWG Forward Work Plan for 2026–27.

TFIWG supported the establishment of smaller, targeted sub-working groups to progress specific topics under the focus area, including identifying industry's top priorities,



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understanding challenges and user needs, and developing practical deliverables. Targeted consultation sessions will be scheduled with volunteering members out of session over 12-25 May 2026, to address information gaps not covered during the TFIWG, the forward work plan and logistics for the sub-working groups.

Members also highlighted the value of maintaining a clear and outcomes-focused approach to meeting agendas and forward planning.

Since the meeting on 28 April 2026, an extraordinary meeting has been scheduled for 19 June 2026.

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