

Trade Technology Working Group

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TTWG Meeting 16 September 2025

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the second Trade Technology Working Group (TTWG) 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 Chair of the TTWG and the Co-Chair of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) provided members a back brief on the Home Affairs Economic Reform Roundtable and how initiatives from the Home Affairs Roundtable progressed to the Treasurer's Economic Reform Roundtable. The NCTF Co-Chair thanked members who had co-designed or had a hand in refining the initiatives that progressed for consideration by the Treasurer. The NCTF Co-Chair further noted that public comments have indicated that further policy decisions will be subject to normal Government and Cabinet processes.

Members were briefed on the Digital Trade Accelerator Program (DTAP) Connect project, to deliver a more modernised Application Programming Interface (API) capability, which is a faster and more efficient way to connect directly with Australian Border Force (ABF) systems. The ABF briefed members on the first release of the Cargo Status API that went live in July 2025. This API gives industry real-time access to cargo status updates. Industry members raised concerns about adopting to new systems without a clear implementation roadmap and suggested the creation of an industrial testing environment to allow software providers to trial proposed consignment APIs. Members also noted that the Project's linkage to MyID could present limitations for non-citizens participating in trials. The ABF outlined Phase 2 of the Project, which will focus on a subscription notification capability for the Cargo Status API and will work collaboratively with industry to co-design and prioritise the development of APIs that will deliver the greatest benefit. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) provided an update the Australian Digital ID System (AGDIS). The AGDIS is legislated under the Digital ID Act, introduced in December 2024. Members noted that currently only Government operating within the AGDIS, with legislation indicating that as of December 2026 private sector participants may elect to join. The ATO advised they are progressing toward using a drivers license to validate your face, noting this wouldn't circumvent limitations presented for non-citizens and having a strong MyID.

The ABF briefed members on the SCIM project, advising that they are partnering with industry to develop new models for non-intrusive inspection for detection of prohibited goods, as well as testing of Automated Threat Detection (ATD) algorithms for intervention for air and sea cargo environments.

The ABF are progressing procurement activities of a high-energy X-ray system to be deployed waterside in Melbourne in early 2026. The ABF are looking to decouple the inspection and examination process by enhancing X-ray network capabilities, meaning that the ABF will be able to have image analysts anywhere leading to uplift in flexibility in deployment.

Focusing on air cargo efforts the ABF advised:

- They are working closely on the DAFF led trial with FedEx, looking to embed with industry,
- Monitoring the Western Sydney Airport project where there will be a joint examination facility with the ABF, DAFF and the AFP, and
- Building models for the ABF to embed in high and low volume depots

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The ABF updated members on work being done on a business continuity plan (BCP) option for the Customs Connect Facility (CCF), which included advising members most of the challenges being faced with the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) are messaging issues, and these arise within the CCF, rather than the ICS itself. The CCF BCP being explored looks at using a cloud-based service, with the view to eventually transfer all ICS messaging to this service. The cloud-based option is roughly 50% completed, with an expected delivery date of 1 July 2026. Industry members queried whether proposed changes would impact the user experience, or if the proposed changes would mean further development is required from software providers. The ABF advised that there would be an initial redirection to trigger the EDI message to flow via the cloud, the overall user experience is expected to remain consistent, and no further development will be mandated from software providers.

For further information, please see www.abf.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do/trade-and-travel-industry-engagement