



BORDER WATCH

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Help protect Australia's border

December 2017

Border Watch Newsletter

In this edition of the Border Watch newsletter, we highlight interactions with industry and the community, Border Watch Coordinator engagement, and outcomes from referrals of suspicious activity (where possible).

It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the support provided by industry and the community, particularly our Border Watch members. Of note, the Border Watch Regional Coordinators have highlighted the feedback and support they receive every time they undertake engagement on behalf of the program.

This support is critical to ensuring Border Watch remains a highly successful program and plays a vital part in helping protect the Australian border.

Air cargo - Unusual consignments

Have you noticed any of these indicators in the air cargo environment?

- Goods value vs freight charges
 - Does the value of the goods match the cost of airfreight charges?
- Is the client making repeated and persistent calls to clear the goods quickly?
- Has a client waited until the goods have cleared status and then provided an alternative delivery address, which does not fit the importer's profile?

If you have seen any of these indicators or similar patterns of behaviour, report it to Border Watch.

Engagement – ABF Cape Class Vessel

The Border Watch Queensland Coordinator and members attended the berthing of the ABFC Cape Nelson as part of its East Coast patrol. Members enjoyed a short tour on the vessel around Moreton Bay.



Border Watch QLD coordinator with Border Watch members

2017 Pre-border Seizures

In 2017 alone, Border Watch has received 28 referrals from industry members on seizures of prohibited imports destined for Australian addresses.

In excess of 65kgs of illegal goods were seized pre-border, including;

- cocaine,
- heroin
- liquid methamphetamine, and
- opium.

Engagement - AusPost Regional Expos

In June and July 2017, Border Watch Regional Coordinators attended the AusPost Expos in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

The purpose of the events was to educate AusPost managers and owners about Border Watch to.

The Border Watch booth and presentation received a great deal of interest, with discussion focusing on how offices can refer information relating to suspicious border activity.



Border Watch SA & NT Coordinators with AusPost staff

Case study – Tobacco

Border Watch received a referral from an industry member who reported a suspicious consignment. The consignee had previously come to notice for mis-describing the goods value. The member also had concerns that the description and size of the consignment did not match the importer's business.

On examination of the consignment, hundreds of kilos of tobacco were located with the attempted revenue evasion totalling more than two million dollars. This referral highlights the important role that industry members play in protecting the border.

Illicit tobacco trade is a criminal offence that denies the Commonwealth legitimate revenue and acts as a funding source for serious and organised crime.

Case study - Patience is a virtue

Not every Border Watch referral ends up in a positive result immediately. Often it can take months or years for an activity to occur.

A referral received in 2015, highlighting there would be a cross border movement of narcotics, finally came to fruition when two persons were intercepted at the

border entry point. A search of both persons' baggage located a quantity of cocaine secreted into housewares.

It highlights that effective reporting can help protect our community, no matter how long the wait.

Case study – Methamphetamine

Information was received from a broker through Border Watch about a sea cargo consignment.

The industry member was suspicious about the shipment because of the following indicators:

- there was a request for the goods to be delivered to a self-storage unit
- the supplier was hesitant to supply an actual address and contact details
- false details provided for communication purposes.

This referral resulted in a large seizure of methamphetamine, located within the consignment, with a street value of over \$150 million dollars.

The holiday season 🎄

The Border Watch Program would like to wish everyone a safe festive season.

The support from industry and the community has delivered great results for the program. While we cannot share all of our successes that industry has generated through reporting of suspicious activity, Border Watch recognises and appreciates your ongoing support.

We look forward to continued engagement in 2018.
Border Watch Engagement

Website: www.border.gov.au/borderwatch

Feedback Email: borderwatch@border.gov.au

