



Industry Consultation Paper

Establishment of Committee for Depot and Warehouse Licensing Matters

The Australian Border Force is exploring a proposal to introduce a committee modelled on the existing National Customs Broker Licensing Advisory Committee (NCBLAC) to address matters relating to customs depot and warehouse matters.

This change aligns Depot & Warehouse licensing with established governance, transparency and industry engagement. The enhanced model aims to deliver consistent oversight, stronger integrity settings and clearer decision-making processes.

Possible Models

1. Expand on existing National Customs Broker Licensing Advisory Committee

- a. Stand up a new Division in the existing Committee
- b. Introduce Deputy Chair
- c. Introduce Depot & Warehouse Industry Member
- d. Introduce Commonwealth Member
- e. Maintain operational independence between Customs Broker matters and Depot & Warehouse matters
- f. *Likely to be faster to implement*

2. Stand up a new National Depot and Warehouse Licensing Advisory Committee

- a. Create a brand-new Committee
- b. Introduce New Chair
- c. Introduce Depot & Warehouse Industry Member
- d. Introduce Commonwealth Member
- e. *Likely to take longer to implement*

3. Other model open for discussion

- a. Placeholder for any new or innovative ideas

Key Benefits for Industry

- Greater consistency and transparency
- Independent, evidence-based recommendations
- applicant interviews increasing the ability to verify statements, resolve inconsistencies, or assess operational maturity
- Stronger supply-chain integrity

In Scope:

- complex licence applications (ensure regional consistency)
- suspensions, cancellations or rejections
- applications involving integrity issues or Fit and Proper concerns
- variations involving relocation, expansion, change of control or medium–high risk

Out of Scope:

- routine low-risk applications
- administrative variations not altering operational risk

Background on current National Customs Broker Licensing Advisory Committee (NCBLAC)

NCBLAC is a statutory body under the *Customs Act 1901* (the Act). Its functions include the assessment of customs broker licence applications and the preparation of reports with recommendations for the Comptroller-General of Customs to make about the licence. NCBLAC also investigates customs brokers and/or brokerages that are referred for issues such as non-compliance. They make recommendations to the Comptroller-General of Customs on further action required in respect of the licensee. It comprises of 3 members, an independent Chair (legally qualified), an industry member and a Commonwealth member.

NCBLAC supports industry and border integrity by ensuring high professional standards by assessing brokers against nationally approved competency requirements and reinforcing integrity and understanding of legislative obligations. Through independent expert advice, NCBLAC strengthens regulatory confidence by helping ensure that licensing, suspension, and cancellation decisions are fair, consistent, transparent and well-informed. Refer for further information at: [National Customs Brokers Licensing Advisory Committee interviews](#)

Next Steps

Industry feedback is welcomed and will play an important role in shaping a strengthened, fair, and risk-aligned licensing framework.

The ABF values the important role of industry in our supply chain and values their input to shaping a strengthened, fair and risk aligned licensing framework.

Please provide feedback and responses to CLR@abf.gov.au by **COB 20 March 2026**.