

From the CEO



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The Australian Customs Service manages the security and integrity of the Australian border and assists the legitimate movement of people and cargo in and out of the country. This vital responsibility is the subject of our current public awareness campaign to inform the community, industry and other key stakeholders of the crucial role Customs plays in protecting our borders

This major communication campaign was developed in response to questions about Customs role, our responsibilities and the activities we carry out to protect Australia's borders from the entry of illegal and harmful goods and unauthorised people.

As part of this campaign, the enclosed booklet, *protecting our borders*, provides an opportunity to better understand Customs broad role in protecting our borders including an overview of Customs history, current operations and future directions.

In addition, articles in this issue of *Manifest* talk about other Customs activities to protect our borders on the Southern Ocean, at Australia's largest international mail centre, via our closed circuit television network at Australia's major ports and through our

Detector Dog Program and the expansion of this world-class facility to include explosives detection capability.

The introduction of the Integrated Cargo System, part of the Cargo Management Re-engineering project, will impact on all individuals and businesses involved in exporting and importing. Information to assist businesses prepare for these changes, including information about workshops and training sessions, is featured in this issue.

Other articles also highlight the role Customs plays in working collaboratively with the trading industry on issues such as anti-dumping and through organisations such as APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group) and the Customs National Consultative Committee.

Strengthening strategic alliances with international Customs organisations is an on-going role of the Australian Customs Service. In this issue we talk about the recent visit to Australia of the United States Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, as well as discussions with New Zealand Customs and our relations with Japan Customs.