

# A milestone for container examinations



Melbourne Container Examination Facility in operation

The first of Customs container examination facilities reached a significant milestone in February when the 50,000th container was x-rayed in Melbourne.

CEO Lionel Woodward celebrated this significant milestone with staff at the facility. He commented that the facilities play an important role in strengthening Australia's border and protecting the community, legitimate industry and government revenue. They had already paid for themselves many times over.

He added that the excellent results highlighted that Customs was a world leader in its use of technology.

The Melbourne facility opened in November 2002. Since then, facilities have been progressively opened in Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle. More than 122,000 containers have been processed through them. A smaller CEF was opened in Adelaide in May.

Drugs, illegal goods and misdescribed goods are found almost daily. Illegal drugs with an estimated street value of more than AUD\$1 billion and revenue items worth AUD\$44 million have been seized to date.

Total seizures at the facilities include:

- 185kg of heroin
- 2890kg of ecstasy (MDMA)
- 348kg of crystal methylamphetamine (ice)
- 750kg of amphetamine type stimulants
- 400 litres of safrole, which can be used in the production of amphetamine-type stimulants
- more than 55 million cigarettes
- 83 tonnes of tobacco
- more than 11,000 bottles of alcohol.

There also has been a large number of detections in relation to copyright, trademark, undeclared goods, quarantine and firearms breaches.