Senator Ellison at the opening of Sydney's new Customs House at Sydney airport.

Minister opens Sydney's new Customs House

Customs Minister Senator Chris Ellison officially opened the new Customs House at Sydney Airport on 5 July.

The Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque in front of 100 invited guests, including representatives from other government departments and industry as well as Customs management from Sydney and Central Office.

NSW Regional Director David Collins officiated at the ceremony which was held in the ground floor foyer.

Afterwards, the Minister and guests were given tours of the 10-storey building.

At the ceremony, the Minister said Customs had moved into a first-class facility in Sydney to continue its vital job of protecting Australia's borders.

"As Sydney Airport grows and develops with the predicted rise in international passenger and cargo traffic, Customs is ideally positioned to meet the extra demands placed upon it," Senator Ellison said.

The new Customs House brings together 600 Customs officers who previously worked in various locations in the Sydney area.

Customs has leased the purpose-built building from Sydney Airport Corporation.

Only one of the floors is not occupied by Customs, being occupied by Australian Federal Police Protective Services.

"With this building, Customs has realised a number of operational and administrative efficiencies by consolidating its activities into one site.

"The location provides better and closer access to Customs clients such as customs brokers and freight forwarders handling both air and sea cargo and consolidates public contact areas for clients into one counter," Senator Ellison said.

History of Customs accommodation in Sydney - page 32