



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Senate Estimates Opening Statement

February 2026

Thank you Chair for allowing me the opportunity to make a brief opening statement.

I would like to highlight the way the Australian Border Force protects our nation by outlining our efforts over a single Australia Day long weekend.

During the 72-hour period between 24th to 26th January this year, we made 209 detections of prohibited items across the country. These included:

- 9 detections of illicit tobacco, totalling over 22 million cigarettes and 16,350 kilograms of loose-leaf tobacco,
- Vape detections totalling 20,240 units,
- 14 detections of border-controlled drugs totalling 182 kilograms.
- We intercepted two people bringing child abuse material into the country.

Our vessels and aircraft were put to good use, much to the detriment of illegal foreign fishers. There were:

- 4 interdictions
- 4 legislative forfeitures
- 2 vessels later destroyed

We facilitated the clearance of 453,840 passengers through our airports.

There is a fundamental element to everything we do, and that is our people.

We operate every day of the year, to ensure the safety of our border and the Australian people.

I thank everyone in the Australian Border Force for their dedication and professionalism in protecting our nation.

Thank you, Chair.