



suspicious. The yacht was found to be carrying over 400 kilograms of narcotics, worth over \$97 million. One phone call from the marina owner prevented a significant quantity of drugs from hitting our streets.

Call *Customs Watch* if you see or hear anything suspicious. Call 1800 06 1800, or visit www.customs.gov.au/customswatch.



Help protect Australia's border

CUSTOMS WATCH

1800 06 1800

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service



How Your Information Can Help

A worker cleaning a hotel room found feathers, tape and postal tubes in the rubbish. She contacted *Customs Watch*, and provided the name and details of the visitor. When the visitor attempted to leave the country soon after, his baggage was searched by Customs and Border Protection officers. He was found to have 24 native birds stuffed into tubes and hidden in his suitcase. These birds are worth thousands of dollars on the black market, and due to the cruel way in which they are smuggled out of Australia, many die en route. One phone call resulted in the detection of a key wildlife trafficker, and significantly disrupted a wildlife smuggling network.

A group of men from overseas questioned a marina owner about purchasing a yacht. They paid in cash, and demonstrated no knowledge of sailing. Soon after, the yacht returned to the marina with scratches on its side, suggesting that it had met with another vessel at sea. The marina owner called *Customs Watch* and relayed his



Help protect Australia's border

CUSTOMS WATCH

1800 06 1800

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

www.customs.gov.au/customswatch

Freecall 24 hours a day.

From overseas or satellite phone:

+61 2 6246 1325

Experienced Customs and Border Protection officers will answer your call. You can choose to remain anonymous. All information provided is treated confidentially.

**Help Protect
Australia's Border**

What is Customs Watch?

Customs Watch is the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's community participation program. Members of the community are encouraged to contact Customs and Border Protection if they see or hear something unusual in their local environment.

You know your local region, your customers or your regular visitors. You know what is normal and what is unusual. If you see or hear something that you consider suspicious, something illegal may be occurring.

The information provided by members of the community has resulted in numerous significant detections of narcotics and other prohibited imports. Your information could be the missing link that leads to another successful Customs and Border Protection operation.

Help Protect Australia's Border, and protect our way of life by reporting suspicious activity to *Customs Watch* on 1800 06 1800, or at www.customs.gov.au/customswatch.

What to look for on land

- Unusual activity on beaches or in remote areas
- Light aircraft landing or taking off at night and newly constructed airstrips
- Vehicles on roads and tracks not usually used
- Unexplained lights or signalling devices
- Hidden campsites or fuel dumps
- Evidence of interference with flora or fauna



Other signs to look for

- Unusually large cash payments
- Cryptic or unusual radio messages
- Reluctance to be identified
- Asking questions about Customs and Border Protection or other law enforcement agency activity

What you can do

- Report any unlawful, unusual or suspicious border activities
- Don't get involved – simply report what you see or hear
- Don't disturb or remove anything as this could destroy vital evidence
- Act immediately – your prompt action could make a difference

What to look for at sea

- Possible unauthorised landings by foreign vessels
- Merchant ships at anchor unusually close to land, islands or other vessels
- Vessels outside normal shipping lanes
- Ships signalling or being met by small craft
- Yachts and pleasure craft in remote or unusual areas
- Anyone making landings in remote areas
- Unusual objects at sea or ashore (eg buoys, rubbish, signalling devices)
- Salvage operations on shipwrecks

What to look for in the air

- Unusual aircraft movements
- Unusual use of airstrips
- Aircraft operating at night without lights
- Aircraft loading or unloading goods in unusual locations



What to tell Customs and Border Protection

- The time, date and place of the incident
- What you saw or heard
- A description of the people involved (eg age, sex, build, height, appearance)
- A description of the transport involved (eg vehicles, planes, boats)
- Registration numbers, call signs and identifying marks that you saw or heard

