



# WATERFRONT CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION

The strategic use of technology enables Customs to effectively multiply its force and use its most valuable resource, its people, where they are most needed.

The introduction of a national waterfront closed-circuit television system means that Customs can monitor border activity at Australia's major ports, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, without the need to allocate staff to maintain a physical presence.

## WHY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Australia is one of the largest countries in the world. Our 37 000 kilometre coastline and many remote ports are a challenge for border protection.

To help meet this challenge, Customs has implemented a world-first national waterfront Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) network. This network continues to be expanded.

The network of cameras, in 32 separate port locations around the country, links to local Customs Houses, regional monitoring centres in each state, and the National Monitoring Centre in Melbourne, allows for the effective and efficient monitoring of Australia's waterfront. Customs is in the process of expanding the waterfront CCTV system to the remaining 31 proclaimed ports so that all 63 proclaimed ports will be included in the network.

## NATIONAL MONITORING CENTRE

The National Monitoring Centre (NMC) is the apex of Customs CCTV network.

The Centre is staffed around the clock, and automatic video motion detectors installed in the cameras ensure that all activity on the waterfront, no matter what time of the day or night, can be monitored.

NMC staff (as well as those in the local Customs office and regional monitoring centre) can also manoeuvre the cameras to gain the most benefit from them.

Having observed an activity on the waterfront, NMC staff will then determine the most appropriate course of action. This might include further CCTV surveillance, or a physical response from Customs, or one of our partner agencies.

## COOPERATION

In addition to the strategic placement of Customs rapid response teams, which can be deployed around the country when the operational need arises, Customs maintains links with partner agencies that have a full-time physical presence in remote areas, such as local police and immigration.

This network of agencies ensures that there is an appropriate force available to respond to illegal activity on the waterfront no matter where it occurs.

Customs also recognises the invaluable support of the waterfront industries and unions in establishing the CCTV network and allowing the use of waterfront infrastructure.

## USE OF CCTV

Customs uses the CCTV network to:

- detect unlawful activity that represents a threat to the Australian border
- allow Customs and its partner agencies to respond to illegal activities in the monitored area
- provide information so that the risk associated with different waterfront areas can be evaluated
- collect evidentiary material to assist in the prosecution of border offences.

In the current global climate, these functions make the network a critical part of Australia's anti-terrorist management strategy.

For information on any Customs matters, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)