

OCOM 2017/2635

Mr Paul Zalai  
Director & Founder  
Freight and Trade Alliance  
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Dear Mr Zalai

The Australian Government has now established the Home Affairs Portfolio. This is a fundamental shift in national security for Australia, and strengthens the collaboration across law enforcement and domestic security agencies. It brings the work of these agencies together with Australia's immigration and border protection functions to achieve a single mission of keeping Australia safe.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) is an integral part of the new Portfolio, reflecting our role as Australia's frontline border law enforcement agency.

We will be operationally independent, working alongside the other operational agencies of the Portfolio: the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Federal Police, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, and in early 2018 the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

The creation of the Home Affairs Portfolio reflects the increasingly complex security landscape for Australia and globally. These threats are multi-dimensional and the lines between organised criminals and terrorists are blurred, driving the need for greater collaboration and coordination both domestically and internationally.

Please be assured that as Australia's customs service, the ABF will also continue to work with industry to facilitate legitimate trade and maintain a strong, secure border. Home Affairs provides an opportunity for us to continue reducing the regulatory burden on industry and further strengthen our international trade relationships.

I am committed to continuing to work closely with industry, community and law enforcement partners, both domestically and internationally, to ensure we can achieve this.

Initially, the only change you may notice is the introduction of new email addresses. ABF officers now have an address format of [firstname.surname@abf.gov.au](mailto:firstname.surname@abf.gov.au) while a new website, [abf.gov.au](http://abf.gov.au) is expected to be operational 1 July 2018. In the meantime, the [homeaffairs.gov.au](http://homeaffairs.gov.au) website will continue to host ABF content. Please ensure your records are updated with these details.

As we look to 2018, the ABF will be contributing to the Home Affairs priorities: Australia's economic prosperity and nation building effort as well as our ability to respond to evolving threats such as terrorism, organised crime, child exploitation, foreign interference and cyber intrusions.

I look forward to working with you under the broader remit of Home Affairs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Outram', written in a cursive style.

**Michael Outram APM**  
A/g Commissioner

20 December 2017