



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Australian Border Force

A/g Superintendent Robert Gunn



Australian Border Force

The Australian Border Force, as operationally independent body within the Department of Home Affairs, is Australia's frontline border law enforcement agency and Australia's customs service. The Australian Border Force delivers critical border protection and national security outcomes while facilitating the movement of people and goods across the border.

Our mission is to protect Australia's border and enable legitimate travel and trade.

Each week around Australia, we:

- manage the importation of
 - over 1.1 million mail items,
 - over 1.6 million air cargo consignments, and
 - over 125,000 sea cargo consignments
- clear 750,000 air passengers moving through our airports
- clear 700 commercial ships and 26 cruise ships
- seize 850 consignments containing prohibited drug imports
- locate 300 unlawful non-citizens in our communities
- collect \$340 million in revenue on behalf of the Australian Government
- patrol 2.3 million square nautical miles of ocean

The Australian Border

- Extends over 37,000 kilometres, much of which is in remote and uninhabited areas
- Border management presents a conflict between enforcement and facilitation
- Workforce size and the scale of the task means there is a requirement to prioritise and target our interventions
- Information is critical to our decision-making

The Border Watch program



- Seeks industry and community to report suspicious border-related behaviour and activities
- Consists of a 24/7 hotline for urgent matters, and an online form for non-urgent matters
- Reports can be made anonymously, and all information is treated confidentially
- If you see something that doesn't feel right, report it

1800 06 1800

abf.gov.au/borderwatch

Information received

- Information from boat dealer about suspicious yacht purchase
- Two men purchasing the yacht had no sailing experience
- Vessel noted to have been damaged after first voyage
- Search revealed 250 kg ecstasy and 150 kg methamphetamine
- Two men arrested, each sentenced to 14 years in prison



Information received

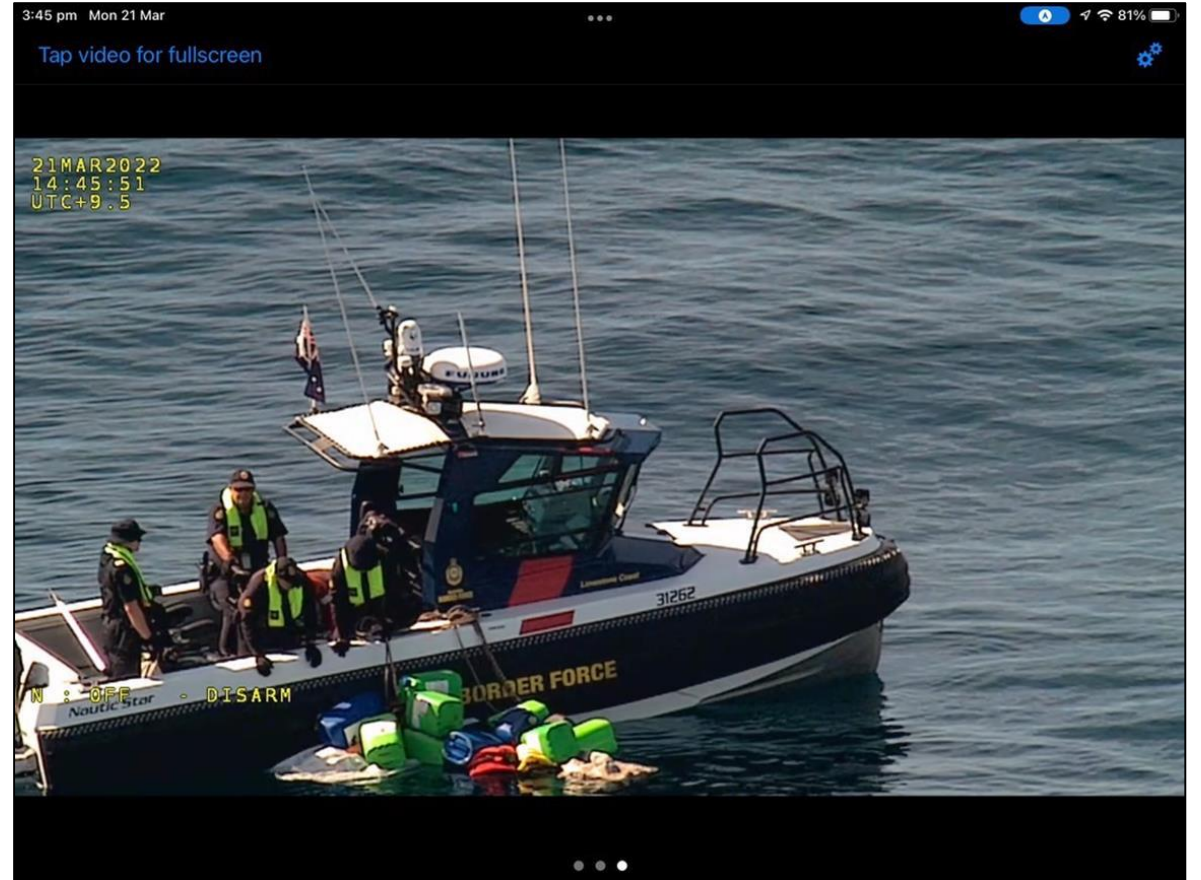
- Member of the public saw man collecting lizards in the wild
- Didn't get involved, but reported information so the matter could be investigated
- Search of the passenger's luggage as he sought to leave the country revealed 6 lizards in his suitcase
- Lizards had been kept in hessian bags for up to eight days, with little food or water
- Passenger was arrested and sentenced to 8 months in prison



The value of community engagement

- ABF received information from law enforcement indicating drugs dropped off South Australian coast
- Commenced overt, high-visibility patrol activity across Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island
- Engagement with community members provided vital information to progress the investigation
- Ongoing engagement throughout the activity then led to the timely detection of the largest drug importation in South Australian history

430 kg cocaine



430 kg cocaine



Recent Community Engagement

- Yorke Peninsula Field Days
- Sharing of CCTV footage from Ceduna
- Media 'ride-along' day in Port Pirie
- Presentation to Eyre Peninsula councils
- Patrols and engagement with industry stakeholders in south-east

Further opportunities?

- Are there any information sources in your work area that might be of benefit to ABF and our border protection mission?
- In your activities around the coast, do you or your teams know what 'normal' looks like?
- Would there be any benefit from closer engagement with ABF, including assistance to identify indicators of suspicious behaviour?

Questions?

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