



# MARITIME TERRORISM

Border Protection Command is tasked with protecting Australia's maritime environment from security threats, including maritime terrorism.

## ROLE OF BORDER PROTECTION COMMAND

Border Protection Command plays an important role in protecting Australia's maritime environment from security threats, including maritime terrorism. The command co-ordinates whole-of-government approach to Australia's counter-terrorism efforts in the maritime environment.

Border Protection Command not only responds to security incidents in Australia's offshore maritime areas, but also investigates ways to prevent incidents before they occur.

The effective management of Australia's maritime security relies on access to accurate and comprehensive information to help form an overarching awareness of Australia's maritime areas. As part of its role, Border Protection Command has responsibility for the new Australian Maritime Identification System (AMIS). This system will bring together the separate maritime information across

Government to produce the most comprehensive understanding of Australia's maritime approaches.

This will enhance the Australian Government's ability to respond to threats as far from the Australian shore as possible.

This integration of information and inter-agency cooperation are vital to Australia's efforts to combat terrorism.

## TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

A terrorist act is defined under Australian law as an act or threat, intended to advance a political, ideological or religious cause by coercing or intimidating an Australian or foreign government or the public, by causing serious harm to people, property, creating a serious risk to the health and safety to the public, or seriously disrupting trade, critical infrastructure or electronic systems (*Criminal Code Act 1995 (CTH)*).

Maritime terrorism may include:

- ▶ attacks on critical infrastructure - such as ports, maritime navigation systems, oil and gas facilities, submerged pipelines and communications cables
- ▶ attacks against vessels - including both publicly and privately owned vessels, whether Australian or foreign flagged such as merchant shipping; cruise ships, pleasure craft; ferries; and government vessels such those operated by the Royal Australian Navy and Customs and Border Protection
- ▶ attacks on commercial interests - including commercial enterprises that derive income through access to Australia's maritime domain such as the tourism and fishing industries
- ▶ incidents mounted from, or through, the maritime domain including terrorist actions against any target, including those on land, which seek access through Australia's maritime approaches.



Counter-terrorism measures are aimed at combating terrorist acts, the primary goal being the deterrence and disruption of threats. Border Protection Command works closely with other government agencies including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney-General's Department, and State and Territory governments.

## COOPERATION

Cooperation is the key to the effective identification of and response to terrorist threats. Terrorism defies jurisdictional boundaries making cross-departmental collaboration imperative. Border Protection Command acts as a central operations and intelligence centre for maritime security, making it more difficult for suspicious activity to go unnoticed.

Interagency arrangements help strengthen maritime security in the region. They also give the Australian Government a platform to develop counter-terrorism policies, legislation, plans and prevention strategies at a national level.

When responding to maritime security threats, Border Protection Command relies on the cooperation of various government departments and agencies. For instance, Border Protection Command is able to draw on:

- ▶ resources from the Customs and Border Protection marine and aviation units
- ▶ Australian Defence Force ships, aircraft, and other surveillance and response assets
- ▶ Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) Dornier aircraft.

This coordination and co-operation enhances Border Protection Command's surveillance and response capabilities.

Border Protection Command also liaises with State and Territory governments, international agencies and the private sector, as the maritime environment can be transnational in nature making interstate and regional engagement critical to the success of Australia's counter-terrorism strategies.

Australia's counter terrorism efforts require your cooperation too.

Report suspicious activity to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400 or the Customs and Border Protection hotline on 1800 06 1800 or for further information go to [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au)



**CUSTOMS AND  
BORDER PROTECTION**  
**hotline**  
**1800 06 1800**  
Report suspicious border activities



Border Protection Command Headquarters,  
Customs House, 5 Constitution Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2600.  
Telephone 1300 558 287.

**Website: [www.bpc.gov.au](http://www.bpc.gov.au)**