



AIRPORT 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.

Customs operates both a national waterfront closed-circuit television (CCTV) system and an airport CCTV system.

WHY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION

More than 20 million international air passengers arrive and depart Australia each year through international airports.

To help meet the challenge of monitoring such a large number of people, Customs has established a CCTV network at eight international airports. Customs has more than 1000 CCTV cameras and operates staffed control rooms at international airports.

These cameras are located within Customs-controlled areas within the terminal, in the basement baggage make-up areas, in the public areas of the terminal and includes coverage of the airside tarmac areas and the public car parks.

The Customs CCTV network at the airport provides full surveillance coverage at all times. Areas under surveillance are generally covered by more than one camera.

These CCTV systems are instrumental in allowing Customs to effectively manage border related activity at international airport terminals around Australia.

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 areas can be evaluated
- collect evidentiary material to assist in the prosecution of border offences.

In the current global climate, these functions make the airport CCTV network an important part of border protection.

MONITORING OF AIRPORT CCTV

Customs operates staffed control rooms at eight international airports. While each of the airport CCTV systems operate independently from one another, Customs is moving towards networking this national infrastructure to the National Monitoring Centre in Melbourne.

Trained Customs officers operate the Customs CCTV cameras.

REVIEW INTO AVIATION SECURITY

In 2005, Customs participated in a review into aviation security. Conducted by Sir John Wheeler, the review examined the threat from serious and organised crime at airports, the integration of ground-based security and law enforcement arrangements and the adequacy of existing security measures.

As part of the Government's response to the Wheeler review, Customs was allocated funding to expand and modernise its airport CCTV capability. This included funding to upgrade the Customs CCTV capabilities, including assistance for airport operators and funding for an additional 200 CCTV cameras.

These CCTV cameras have now been installed and are providing increased security at Australia's key airports through greater coverage of airport operations.

The Wheeler Review also recommended that Customs take a lead role in expanding and improving the CCTV systems at Australian airports. This includes providing a CCTV consultancy service for airlines, airports and other affected organisations that require advice on equipment and effective use of CCTV systems.

For information on any Customs matters, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263, email information@customs.gov.au or browse the website www.customs.gov.au