

A SPECIAL
MANIFEST
FEATURE

SYDNEY AIRPORT AUSTRALIA'S GATEWAY

With more than 500 passenger processing staff employed at Sydney Airport, the Australian Customs Service is a key player in the growing success of Australia's oldest, biggest and busiest airport. In this special Manifest feature, Customs roles in facilitating travel and trade and protecting the community are seen through the eyes of the people who work there.

Like all major international airports, Sydney Airport is an economic powerhouse. The managing authority, Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd, says the airport directly employs 33,500 people with a further 33,000 jobs from the flow-on effect. It generates about \$3.5 billion a year in economic benefits for the Sydney region and a further \$3.8 billion a year in New South Wales.

The airport is in the midst of a \$2 billion program of improvements to terminals, freight facilities, and related infrastructure. This will enable it to keep up with expected passenger and freight increases in the early years of the next century, and to ensure speedy, worry-free handling of the massive influx of visitors to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Below and facing page: Aerial perspectives of how the expanded International Terminal at Sydney Airport will look.



IMAGE: SYDNEY AIRPORT CORPORATION



Sydney Airport is the gateway to the host city for the 2000 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, so Customs, with the Sydney Airports Corporation and the rest of the airport 'team', are committed to ensuring that athletes and other visitors gain the best arriving and departing impressions of Sydney and Australia.

For Customs staff, this means a dedication to ensuring the best in passenger processing services and freight import and export clearances.

They are working with airport management to prepare the most effective use of the \$600 million international terminal redevelopment, which is intended to provide service and comfort equal to the best in the world. At the same time, up to 6000 passengers will be able to pass through each hour compared with 4560 now. There will be

larger baggage handling units and reclaiming areas and an enlarged area for arriving passengers.

In 1997-98, Customs processed 7.2 million international passenger movements through Sydney Airport, nearly half the national total of 14.8 million.



IMAGE: SYDNEY AIRPORT CORPORATION



For some time, Customs has been working on plans to handle growing numbers of passengers over the next few years. Everything must be ready and working before the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic games. The large numbers of athletes, officials, sponsors and spectators expected to arrive and leave – mostly through Sydney – over a period of two or three months will provide a very heavy workload. But that workload is expected to be the norm by 2003.



IMAGES: SYDNEY AIRPORT CORPORATION



From the top: Customs Chief Inspector Airport Liaison, Geoff Frost (right), discusses construction plans for Sydney Airport's major redevelopment with Civil and Civic Area Foreman, Mick Loedeman. Geoff has been closely involved with the expansion of airport facilities to cope with increasing passenger traffic.

How the new International Terminal will look. It will feature Australian plants, more seating and a wide array of specialty and duty free shops and food and beverage outlets.

