



Going through its paces

A new class of Customs vessel takes to the water
Port Phillip Bay, Victoria.

A new class of Customs tactical response vessel has been put through its paces in Victoria before formal handover to Customs.

The vessel, the first of four being manufactured for Customs, is permanently based in Victoria.

It boasts modern navigation, communication and radar systems and features auto pilot and the ability to track vessels. It has a top speed of over 40 knots fully loaded. With a crew of two it can transport a six-person boarding party to vessels requiring boarding in the bay.

The vessel is berthed at Williamstown and can be towed on a trailer to conduct operational activity along the coast. It is operated by the Enforcement Operations (Response) Group.

The three other tactical response vessels will be deployed in Dampier, Fremantle and Sydney to improve Customs ability to patrol international ports and their approaches.