



Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Australian Public Service Commissioner

Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald
Chair, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Macdonald

Submission: Australian Border Force Bill 2015

I support the consolidation of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) into the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

The Australian Border Force Bill 2015 (the Bill):

- confirms the *Public Service Act 1999* as the employment framework for all employees of the DIBP, including those in the Australian Border Force;
- supports the role of the Secretary of the Department in relation to employer responsibilities for all employees in the DIBP;
- establishes an Australian Border Force Commissioner as a statutory officer operating within the DIBP and;
- builds on the integrity provisions of the Public Service Act to recognise the special operating requirements of DIBP where employees exercise significant enforcement powers. Many of these powers currently apply to the ACBPS.

In my view, these arrangements are appropriate. The APS consists of over a hundred agencies engaged in a diverse range of activities. It is capable of accommodating different operating needs, including the enhanced integrity arrangements required by DIBP.

On a point of detail, I note that clause 24 of the Bill provides for DIBP workers to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to be prescribed by rules. It will be important that the oath or affirmation is consistent with the APS Values, Employment Principles and Code of Conduct.

Yours sincerely

John Lloyd PSM
April 2015