
Now is the time to become an Australian Trusted Trader

1 December 2015

In brief

In our September TaxTalk article, [Australian Trusted Trader: can your trade be trusted](#), we introduced the Australian Border Force's (ABF) trade facilitation programme – Australian Trusted Trader (ATT). ATT provides preferential treatment for international traders who meet supply chain security and trade compliance standards. ATT provides an opportunity for international traders to reduce supply chain cost, improve speed to market and free up working capital as well as a range of other commercial benefits.

This article provides an update the development of future benefits and increasing demand for the programme. As ATT continues to develop, we will keep you informed to ensure that you are prepared for its full implementation from 1 July 2016.

Key Points

- Industry Summit confirms commitment to ATT and introduces second wave of benefits.
 - Urgency for businesses to plan now as demand rises for the programme.
 - Key policy architect of ATT joins PwC from Australian Border Force.
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In detail

A Second Wave

ATT is developing rapidly. At the recent Immigration and Border Protection Industry Summit, Department of Immigration and Border Protection Secretary Michael Pezzullo and ABF Commissioner Roman Quaedvlieg reinforced their commitment to delivering a truly innovative trusted trader programme.

Commissioner Quaedvlieg also alluded to a second wave of future trade innovations, including the prospect of facilitated services trade. This is a major development in the Border Force's thinking on ATT and suggests the programme is entering a dramatic new phase of development not seen before internationally. It is also consistent with the new integrated Department of Immigration and Border Protection's mandate.

Businesses supporting their international operations with the facilitation of key personnel across borders should begin familiarising themselves with ATT now, as the inclusion of services trade within the ATT framework could act as a game changer.

Demand Rising

The ATT pilot has entered its second stage of development, having been operational for six months. This is an indication that the programme is meeting its implementation key performance indicators, as the Pilot expands when targets are met.

The pilot has 15 participants across a range of industries including consumer goods, aerospace, electronics, precious metals and motor vehicles.

The third stage of the pilot will commence from February 2016 and is an important development on stage two as it commences work with supply chain service providers including customs brokers, freight forwarders, transport providers, terminal operators and ports. We expect there to be high demand amongst service providers as international trends indicate participation in these types of programmes provides competitive advantages in the marketplace.

The ongoing expansion of ATT, coupled with a potential second wave of benefits, suggests that demand for the programme will be high. Businesses who want to benefit from the programme should begin planning now for its full implementation on 1 July 2016, as expected demand may place pressure on Border Force resources.

Preparation against ATT standards along with the identification and closing of gaps is important to ensure that your submission is as strong as possible to enable optimum benefits to be unlocked. The ABF will be keen to facilitate strong candidates into ATT to ensure the Australian economy reaps the benefits of the programme as soon as possible.

Key architect joins PwC

PwC's International Trade & Excise practice has been joined by Luke Branson, a key policy architect of ATT. Over two and a half years, Luke was involved in bringing ATT from its conception to implementation. Luke's role involved the design and delivery of many of ATT's foundational building blocks, including programme structure and standards, compliance approach, pilot design, facilitation benefits and international strategy. Luke also acted as the Account Manager for one of the first four pilot partners, facilitating their entry into the programme in the formative stages of the ATT Pilot.

Luke has joined the practice as a Senior Manager and will assist our Partners and Directors to advise your business on matters including:

- ATT readiness
- ATT standards and requirements
- ATT benefits realisation,
- International growth strategy
- Business-to-government relationship management, and
- Other government border regulatory programmes.

The takeaway

The ATT programme represents a significant change in the way international traders can work with the ABF. With the Industry Summit reinforcing the ABF's commitment to the programme and introducing a second wave of benefits, now is the time for businesses to begin familiarising themselves with ATT and understand the benefits it could offer.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how these issues might affect your business, please contact:

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