



Customs played a key role in the success of 2006 Australian Grand Prix.

Thanks from Grand Prix organisers

Australian Grand Prix organisers in Melbourne have thanked Customs for contributing to the success of this year's event.

Customs Event Status was granted under S162A of the *Customs Act* to the organising body that gave a financial undertaking as security against GST and Customs duties.

Following a large round-table meeting at Albert Park with the principal customs brokers and freight forwarders for the Grand Prix, Melbourne securities and events officers coordinated all Customs issues over the ensuing weeks.

They worked closely with their colleagues in passenger and cargo examination areas and at Customs House, Melbourne Airport.

Issues included the arrival of five special flights at Avalon Airport, processing of crews and passengers, cargo screening, Melbourne Airport passengers arriving with Grand Prix goods (team technicians and mechanics have been known to arrive in the night carrying that vital and top-secret engine component which is going to win it!), carnets and pre-clearances of other items.

The various Customs clearance arrangements proceeded smoothly — a credit to Customs teamwork and the strong, established relationships with all other parties involved.

During the week before the weekend race, a team of four security and two cargo examination officers visited the track under intense security provisions.

The customs brokers' representative introduced officers to racing team managers, who explained the arrangements for organising and securing all temporary imports in their care. There were rows of shipping containers holding masses of tyres.

There was high-level security everywhere in the pit area. The Customs officers identified the serial numbers of various team engines and chassis imported under carnets and event security. They examined and verified the details and descriptions against the commercial-import documents.