

Man nabbed trying to smuggle 2.2mn cigarettes

A Malaysian national has been busted trying to smuggle more than two million cigarettes into New Zealand in Customs' largest-ever tobacco seizure. He was arrested on Wednesday for attempting to evade \$2.72m in duty and GST and trying to smuggle 2.2m cigarettes through the border. Customs' group manager of intelligence, investigations and enforcement, Dana McDonald, said the tobacco seizure -... was "yet another example of organised crime involvement in tobacco fraud". "Criminals will do whatever they can to make money, regardless of the commodity - it's just business for them," she said. "With cigarette prices in New Zealand amongst the highest globally, tobacco fraud is seen as a lucrative business venture for criminals, and sadly we expect this trend to continue."

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