

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 08 February 2018

HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(IBA/011) – Integrity of Australia's Border Arrangements - Single window system for international trade**

Asked:

*What is the timeframe for the development and implementation of a single window for international trade in Australia?*

*Has the department explicitly consider integrity and corruption risks when developing the single window system?*

*Which other government agencies are involved in the development and implementation of the single window system? Will agencies with responsibility for addressing integrity and corruption issues be given the opportunity to provide input?*

*What, if any, are the potential implications of a single window system for the integrity of Australia's borders? How might a single window system be of assistance in addressing corruption (particularly where it facilitates serious and organised crime) at Australia's borders?*

*Will the experience of other countries that have already implemented single window systems be taken into consideration in the development of the single window system in Australia? What has been the impact of the single window system on corruption-enabled border crime in those countries?*

Answer:

#### Context and timeframes

Home Affairs is engaged with other government agencies in undertaking preliminary exploratory work for a single window including (but not limited to): the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Defence; Attorney-General's Department; Digital Transformation Agency; Austrade; the Treasury; and Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities.

In developing, testing and implementing options for a single window, stakeholders including government agencies, industry and the public would be consulted. Single window experiences of other comparable countries would also be considered.

## A single window and integrity issues

Ensuring the integrity of Australia's border, and addressing growing security threats would be taken into account in developing and implementing a single window. Relevant government agencies would be consulted.

A single window could create a secure digital interface between government and industry for international trade. This could better ensure our border integrity and address corruption issues. A single window could enable earlier identification of border threats through improved knowledge of the supply chain, as information about imports and exports would be more transparent and communicated earlier.

Globally, several international organisations (e.g. United Nations and G20) and countries (e.g. Ghana, Singapore and Korea) have highlighted that single windows (and e-services) for trade and others government services may reduce corruption risks.