

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Australian Federal Police**

**Question No. BE17-117**

**Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question on 02 June 2017:**

In the last 10 years, how many investigations into illicit tobacco has AFP conducted?

Have you seen an increase in illicit tobacco investigations over the last five years?

How many of those investigations have resulted in arrests?

How many of those arrests have resulted in people being charged with offences related to illicit tobacco?

Of those investigations, are you able to tell me how many have been focused on, or included molasses tobacco?

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

1. Tobacco is not an illegal import, but may be the commodity associated with other forms of offending, such as failing to pay excise and duties (broadly characterised herein as 'tobacco smuggling'). In the last 10 years, the AFP has investigated five matters relating to tobacco smuggling.
2. Tobacco is not an illegal import. AFP does not hold data suggesting any trend, either increase or decrease, in tobacco smuggling investigations.
3. There was one arrest relating to tobacco smuggling. Some of the investigations discussed at 1 have led to arrests for other charges.
4. There was one charge for an offence relating to tobacco smuggling. Some of the investigations discussed at 1 have led to arrests for other charges.
5. The AFP has not conducted investigations focused on molasses tobacco. AFP data does not allow us to identify conclusively whether or not molasses tobacco has been involved in any way in any investigation.