

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Federal Police

Question No. BE17-118

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

We heard evidence from Border Protection this week that molasses tobacco is a growing concern. Does AFP believe molasses tobacco has been imported illegally?

Has the AFP noticed a recent increase in investigations into molasses tobacco?

Border Security believe that illegal importation of molasses tobacco is funding 'nefarious behaviour' internationally. Does AFP hold this belief?

Have there been investigations conducted into connections between molasses tobacco and organised crime or known terrorism syndicates?

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

1. Tobacco, including molasses tobacco, is not an illegal import, although it may be the commodity associated with other forms of offending, such as failing to pay excise and duties. Australian Border Force (ABF) and Australian Taxation Office (ATO) may have investigated offences relating to the importation of tobacco.
2. These questions are better directed to the ABF and/or the ATO.