

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/109) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Why should the customers of Ausfreight be forced to pay customs duty twice when Ausfreight was collecting the duties on behalf of ACBPS?

Answer:

The holders of customs licences do not collect duties and GST on behalf of Australian Customs and Border Protection Services (ACBPS) or the Commonwealth. In some circumstances the holder of a customs licence may pay duty and GST to ACBPS on behalf of their client (i.e. the importer).

ACBPS has obligations to pursue Commonwealth revenue debts where it is possible to do so. ACBPS is not responsible for the defaults of Ausfreight, which acted as the agent of the importers, under contract to the importers.