

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 98**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:**

- a) What are the operating hours of Container Examination Facilities (CEFs)?
- b) What is the average daily throughput of CEFs, broken down by port?
- c) What is the target daily throughput of CEFs?
- d) What is the average waiting time for access to a CEF?
- e) What are the same figures for 2003-04 and 2002-03?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- a) The CEF hours of operation are:

Location	Monday – Friday	Saturday
Sydney	0530 - 2230	0530 - 1530
Melbourne	0600 - 2230	0600 - 1430
Brisbane	0600 – 2300	0600 – 1500
Fremantle	0600 – 2200	0600 – 1400
Adelaide	0700 – 1700	Closed

- b) and c)

The CEFs have annual throughput targets. Customs does not record the average daily throughput.

The table below outlines the annual throughput targets and actuals by port for financial year 2004-05. All figures are in twenty foot equivalent units (TEU), which is the international measure for containers.

Port	ANNUAL THROUGHPUT	
	Inspection Target	Inspection Actual
Sydney	37,839	39,046
Melbourne	37,706	39,476
Brisbane	28,263	28,359
Fremantle	19,910	21,376
Adelaide	353	359
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124,071</b>	<b>128,616</b>

d) Customs does not maintain statistics on CEF access waiting times, however any waiting time for trucks entering the CEF is minimal.

d) Annual throughput targets and actuals by port for 2003-04:

	<b>ANNUAL THROUGHPUT</b>	
<b>Port</b>	<b>Inspection Target</b>	<b>Inspection Actual</b>
Sydney	34,846	30,264
Melbourne	34,846	32,634
Brisbane	20,908	19,544
Fremantle	8,645	6,825
Adelaide	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,245</b>	<b>89,267</b>

The 2003-04 throughput target for Fremantle is the annual target, but actual full operations commenced partway through the year.

Annual throughput targets and actuals by port for 2002-03:

	<b>ANNUAL THROUGHPUT</b>	
<b>Port</b>	<b>Pro rata Inspection Target</b>	<b>Inspection Actual</b>
Sydney	9,742	7,476
Melbourne	14,630	14,064
Brisbane	4,163	2,471
Fremantle	N/A	N/A
Adelaide	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,535</b>	<b>24,011</b>

The 2002-03 throughput targets are pro rata annual targets, which account for the varied starting dates of each CEF during the first year of operation.