

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 107

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

Regarding the National Identity Security Strategy:

- a) Was the Customs SmartGate designed in line and in compliance with the National ID Security Strategy?
 - i) If so: give details.
- b) In what aspects is SmartGate compliant with the National ID Security Strategy?
 - i) If not:
 - 1) Why not?
 - 2) Is it intended to eventually make SmartGate compliant with the strategy?

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

- a) No. The design of the SmartGate solution was finalised prior to the development of the National Identity Security Strategy.
- b) The development of the National Identity Security Strategy (NISS) was announced by the Australian Government on 14 April 2005 to combat identity theft and the fraudulent use of stolen and assumed identities. The NISS aims to strengthen identity security through rigorous enrolment and authentication processes while ensuring personal privacy.

The SmartGate system is compliant with the principles of the NISS by using technology and a key proof of identity (POI) document – the ICAO compliant ePassport – to improve the authentication and identification procedures at Australian International Airports.