

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 78

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

- a) In respect of cargo containers entering Australian seaports, for each year since 2001, how many containers:
 - i. entered Australian ports;
 - ii. were X-rayed or gamma-ray scanned at Australian seaports, and at which ports;
 - iii. have had their security seals examined for evidence of tampering;
 - iv. were inspected to detect radiation; and
 - v. were physically hand-searched.
- b) Which Australian ports receive international sea-container cargo and what additional security measures have been put in place at those ports?
- c) In respect of the Australian Customs Service's container e-ray equipment:
 - i. Where are the units located
 - ii. When did each unit begin full time operation
 - iii. What is the purchase cost of each unit; and
 - iv. What is the annual running cost of each x-ray unit
- d) In respect of each x-ray unit identified in Part (1), for each year since the unit became operational:
 - i. What is the value of undeclared revenue items detected
 - ii. What amount of revenue has been received as a result of detection
- e) What equipment do Customs have to scan for radioactive materials
- f) Have radioactive materials, such as plutonium or uranium, been seized?

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

- a)
 - i. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4747 of 2006.
 - ii. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4747 of 2006.
 - iii. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4747 of 2006.
 - iv. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4747 of 2006.
 - v.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
N/A	98	4,603	9,605	12,961	15,082

- b) Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4747 of 2006.
Customs has initiated the following measures:
 - improved security at sea ports via CCTV;
 - increased cargo inspection rates;
 - introduction of new detection technologies in container examination areas of cargo;
 - additional screening for biological and chemical agents;
 - increased number of detector dog teams;

- the arming of Customs Officers carrying out investigations and border security functions.
- c) Container x-ray equipment
 - i. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.
 - ii. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.
 - iii. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.
 - iv. Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.
- d) In respect of each x-ray unit identified in (c) (i) refer to Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.
- e) 124 gamma and neutron radiation pagers and 36 radiation identifiers.
- f) Refer to the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 4807 of 2006.