

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 80

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

a) With regards to figure 23 (page 80 of the Customs annual report), it appears that a number of seizures were made as a result of container examination facility detection in relation to tobacco.

With regards to the sticks that have been seized, has Customs determined whether or not these are:

- i) Cigarettes;
- ii) Cigarettes legitimately sold overseas but imported unlawfully into Australia.

b) For each seizure listed in figure 23, can the Service please identify the origin or suspected origin of the tobacco by country?

c) With regards to the table in figure 25 (page 84 of the Customs 2005-06 annual report), could the ACS please provide data broken down into:

- i) weapons
- ii) performance enhancing drugs
- iii) precursor chemicals
- iv) child pornography
- v) flora and fauna
- vi) non narcotic drugs
- vii) other

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

- a) i) The five references made to cigarette sticks in Figure 23 refer exclusively to cigarettes.
- a) ii) The seizure on 7 July 2005 involved the importation of counterfeit cigarettes. The other four cigarette stick seizures involved genuine cigarettes.

b)

Date Seized	Goods	Suspected Origin
07/07/2005	Cigarettes	People's Republic of China
21/08/2005	Manufactured tobacco	Indonesia
30/11/2005	Manufactured tobacco	United Arab Emirates
14/01/2006	Unmanufactured tobacco	Philippines
16/01/2006	Manufactured tobacco	Indonesia
06/02/2006	Cigarettes	Singapore
28/03/2006	Cigarettes	Singapore
31/03/2006	Cigarettes	United Arab Emirates
03/04/2006	Chewing tobacco*	Egypt
27/04/2006	Cigarettes	Philippines
15/05/2006	1. Unmanufactured tobacco	India

	2. Cigarettes	
15/05/2006	Chewing tobacco	India

* This detection was subsequently determined to be smoking molasses tobacco that was legitimately imported.

- c) This question is unable to be answered, as the extraction of the requested data would require an excessive amount of time and diversion of resources from core functions.