

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 84

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

ICS Program

- a) Was the decision to undertake the ICS program in the form of a written proposal?
 - i) If so:
 - 1) is the written proposal extant?
 - I) If not, why not?
 - II) If so, please provide.
 - ii) If not:
 - 2) Why not?
- b) Who or which body made the decision that a written proposal was not required?
- c) Provide the committee a list of the name of every ACS employee responsible for making the decision to fund the project internally and indicate:
 - i) Whether or not they still work for Customs?
 - ii) What was their role in making the decision to fund the project internally.
- d) On what date was the then-Customs Minister (i.e. not necessarily the current Customs Minister) first made aware of the existence of the project?
- e) What documentation was supplied to the then-Minister at that time in support of the proposal?
- f) Was the office of the Minister included in the decision to fund the project internally?
 - i) If not, why not?

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

- a) Customs intention to develop an integrated cargo system was reflected in the Cargo Management Strategy released in March 1997. The decision to replace the legacy cargo systems was made as part of the Customs IT Outsourcing Project and the requirements to re-engineer the legacy systems were included in the tender documentation. The decision to approve the initiation of Phase 3 of the CMR project (the construction phase) was based on a project brief provided to the CMR Project Board.
 - i. (1) copies of the Cargo Management Strategy, the report of Customs IT Outsourcing Project Evaluation Committee and the recommendation to award the contract to EDS Australia and the CMR Phase Three project brief are attached.
 - (I) n/a
 - (II) attached
 - ii. (2) N/A
- b) N/A

c) i) & ii) The decision to internally fund the CMR project was made by the then CEO, who no longer works for Customs.

d& e) Advice on the Cargo Management Strategy was provided to the then Minister in March 1996. In addition, advice on the selection of the preferred tenderer for the Customs IT outsourcing project was provided to the then Minister in late 1997.

f) No.

i) The Minister was advised that Customs was not seeking additional funds to develop and implement the CMR project in June 1999.