

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 68

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

What individual capital works programs will be cancelled by the agency as a result of the \$19.5 million cut to the capital works program in the forward estimates of the 2012-13 Budget.

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

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (AC&BPS) adopts an approach to approving capital works projects which takes into account the government's priorities and also AC&BPS's commitments to enhance intelligence led, risk based intervention capabilities. This approach is essential in ensuring the continued protection of Australia's borders.

No individual capital programs have been cancelled although a number have been deferred or spread over a longer period of time e.g. CCTV projects to upgrade the network to a digital platform.

Lower priority asset replacements are being deferred and asset lives are being extended.

Investment is being focussed on critical asset replacement such as x-ray / detection equipment, maintenance projects (rather than upgrades), projects which invest in our systems and capabilities to support our intelligence led, risk based approaches, NPP related commitments and those projects which provide a return on investment e.g. Smartgate, property lease consolidations.