

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE14-31)**

Senator MacDonald (L&CA 39) asked:

### **Question**

CHAIR: It has been suggested to me that, at any one stage of the day, the week, the month or the year, there are literally hundreds of containers on the wharves in Australia full of contraband tobacco. I understand the process, through resource constraints, is that very few containers are actually physically inspected. Can you tell me, if it is not giving away secrets, what is the policy about looking at containers?

Comment on whether that is constrained by resources and comment on my first question, about allegations of huge quantities of contraband—illicit tobacco—sitting on our wharves, rarely seen because they are never looked at because of resources. [...]

In the end, to answer the question directly, and the number will be refined on notice if I have to, of the 2.4 million or 2.5 million containers, we inspect—that is to say, run through a screen—around three per cent.

### *Answer:*

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) risk assesses all imported cargo. Following risk assessment, in the 2012-13 financial year, ACBPS physically inspected 3.8% of imported sea cargo containers.