

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

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

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE14-155)**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

### **Question**

1. What is the breakdown of the \$88.0 million to be spent over four years to increase inspections for air and sea cargo and international mail at the border?
2. Specifically, what is the breakdown for the expansion and enhancement of screening cargo and mail?
3. What is the breakdown for the expansion and enhancement of examination activities?
4. What is the breakdown for the expansion and enhancement of investigation activities?
5. What is the breakdown for the expansion and enhancement of intelligence activities?
6. How much of the \$88.0 million will be dedicated to customs to reduce the number of illegal guns and drugs entering Australia?
7. How will customs use this money to combat smuggling of illegal guns and drugs into Australia?
8. What initiatives are in place to combat this smuggling?
9. How much of the \$88.0 million will be spent on regional cooperation to combat the illegal smuggling of goods to Australia?
10. Which of Australia's regional partners will receive funds to assist in this goal?
11. What types of activities will this portion of the \$88.0 million be spent on?
12. Will Australia provide support to our regional partners in order to implement these activities?

*Answer:*

1. The Tackling Crime Measures funding of \$88 million comprises:
  - \$30.1 million to increase inspections of air cargo and international mail including \$3.7 million for additional officers to support intelligence activities
  - \$24 million to increase sea cargo examinations
  - \$15.7 million to procure new technology to support increased levels of intervention (inspections and examinations)
  - \$4 million to create a specialist examination capability to develop and enhance the ability of ACBPS officers to search and examine cargo
  - \$8.5 million to expand the Detector Dog Program to provide an additional 15 detector dog teams, and
  - \$5.7 million to create a new investigation squad.

2. \$30.1 million will be allocated directly to expand screening<sup>1</sup> of international mail from 40 million to 50 million mail articles per year and to increase screening of air cargo from 1.5 million to 2 million consignments per year. This funding also includes examination activities<sup>2</sup> required to detect prohibited goods in air cargo and international mail including illicit drugs and firearms.
3. \$24 million will be allocated to increase sea cargo examinations from 14,000 TEU (Twenty Foot Equivalent Containers) to 15,500 TEU per year. Examination targets are not specified for air cargo and international mail. As stated above, the \$30.1 million allocated for increased screening of air cargo and international mail includes funding for increased examination activities in those streams.
4. The expanded investigation activities will provide an additional twelve investigators, who will work with partner law enforcement agencies and existing joint agency law enforcement taskforces, to investigate and arrest firearms and drug traffickers.
5. The expanded intelligence activities will provide an additional eight intelligence officers to assist in the identification and targeting of illicit firearms and drugs at the border. This investment in additional intelligence officers recognises that enhancing the intelligence-led approach adopted by ACBPS is the most effective strategy to detect illicit goods, including firearms and drugs, moving across our borders.
6. Intercepting illicit drugs and firearms remain key priorities for the service however, increased screening will address all border risks. Specific funding is not allocated to the detection of illicit firearms and drugs.
7. See responses to Q2, 3, 4 and 5.
8. ACBPS implements a range of strategies to combat the smuggling of illicit goods across the border including focussing its efforts across the entire border continuum, using an intelligence lead, risk based approach to target and intervene in the movement of illicit goods. A key aspect of this approach is ACBPS intelligence, compliance and investigations teams working in close collaboration with our partner agencies. This includes a strategic partnership with the Australian Federal Police, participation in joint task forces with law enforcement partners and working closely with international intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The

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<sup>1</sup> Screening describes all inspection and examination activity. Inspection is defined as ‘a consignment that is assessed using non-intrusive technology, such as x-ray (static or mobile), trace particle detection, detector dogs or cursive physical examination. This is the first level of physical activity and is undertaken to acquit risk in a consignment.’

<sup>2</sup> Examination involves consignments being physically opened. This is a second level of physical activity and is undertaken when a consignment is identified as high risk as a result of intelligence or targeting efforts, or due to an anomaly detected during an inspection.

establishment of the National Border Targeting Centre will further integrate and enhance these capabilities and partnerships to combat trans-border crime.

9. Tackling Crime Measures funding will contribute to or complement these strategies.

10. None.

11. None.

12. N/A.

13. N/A.