

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-24)

Senator Seselja (L&CA 34) asked:

Question

Senator SESELJA: It was not a criticism. How many additional containers will be inspected as a result of some of these measures?

Mr Pezzullo: The percentage will increase by 20 per cent at two ports. We do 102,000 container load equivalents annually. I will have to take on notice what the jump up is in absolute numbers. It is a 20 per cent increase at two ports—Sydney and Melbourne—because they are hotspots for us. One of the deputies might have further particulars.

Answer:

At the Additional Budget Estimates Hearing on 25 February 2014, immediately following this exchange between Senator Seselja and Mr Pezzullo, Mr Quaedvlieg, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Border Enforcement, confirmed (Hansard L&CA 34):

Mr Quaedvlieg: In relation to sea cargo containers, we will be increasing examinations from 14,000 to 15,500 containers.

Senator SESELJA: So that is 1,500 extra sea cargo containers per annum.

Mr Quaedvlieg: That is correct.

Inspections involve the use of x-ray technology, detector dogs or physical examination to acquit the risks presented in a container. Examination involves physically opening a container and further examining the goods stored inside the container.

Under the Tackling Crime Measures, examinations of sea cargo containers will increase by 1,500 TEU from 14,000 to 15,500 TEU annually. The increases will occur at Sydney and Melbourne only. The Container Examination Facility in each port will undertake an additional 750 TEU examinations per year, which is an increase of 18.8% in those facilities.

(Note - TEU is a shipping industry standard term for a twenty foot container ie Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit.)