

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 219**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2005:**

Regarding DFAT's meeting with Customs to determine whether the SmartGate system could be changed to only read passports when they are open, not closed:

- a) What advice did Customs provide to DFAT on this matter?
- b) Can the SmartGate system be changed in this way?
- c) If so, are there any estimated costs of reworking the system to add this additional functionality? What are they?
- d) Has Customs undertaken any estimates of the cost of doing this?
- e) If Customs is intending to undertake the alterations, how does this affect the timeline for the rollout of SmartGate?

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

- a) Customs advised DFAT that the SmartGate Trial system used for the SmartGate Trial can be changed to read passports when they are open.
- b) The SmartGate Trial system can be changed.
- c) Estimated cost to rework the functionality is approximately \$100,000.
- d) See (c) above.
- e) If Customs undertakes the alterations to the existing SmartGate Trial system, it will not affect the timeline for the rollout of automated border processing.