

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 229

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

- a) Could you provide a copy of the interim report on the findings of the SmartGate trial mentioned in QoN 141? Is this different to the technical report that was provided to the Committee a while ago?
- b) Are there any other reports about SmartGate available? If so, please provide?
- c) Are there any other reports about Smartgate that are due out in the near future?
- d) If so, what are they and please provide us with a copy when they are released.
- e) Has Customs completed its evaluation of the trial extension? Were any reports, papers, reviews, etc. completed?
 - i) If so, please provide. If you cannot provide, can you give us a rundown on the issues covered and the conclusions?
 - ii) If not, why not? When is the evaluation slated for completion?
- f) Was the evaluation undertaken by Customs or by a third party?
- g) Has Customs commissioned any third party evaluation of the SmartGate trial?
 - i) If not, have any other third parties been involved in an evaluation of the trial?
 - ii) Does ACS intend to get any third-party evaluation of the system before it goes live?
 - iii) If so, how many and who are they? Did they receive any remuneration? Are there any reports available from the evaluations and, if so, please provide a copy.

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

- a) A copy of the SmartGate trial extension interim report as mentioned in QoN 141 is provided. The SmartGate trial interim report is different from the technical report provided to the committee.
- b) Reports by AC Nielsen, ACTSAFE ACT and DSTO have been prepared. The AC Nielsen and ACTSAFE ACT reports are available but the DSTO report is a regulated release document.
- c) A final report will be completed following the conclusion of the SmartGate trial extension. The trial extension was funded to 30 June 2005.
- d) The report will be provided when it is finalised.
- e) As noted in c and d evaluation of the SmartGate trial extension is currently being undertaken.
 - i) see (c) and (d) above.
 - ii) see (c) and (d) above.
- f) Evaluations have been undertaken by Customs and third party experts.

- g) Yes, AC Nielsen, ACTSAFE ACT and DSTO have conducted evaluations of the SmartGate trial extension.
 - i) N/A
 - ii) Customs will conduct extensive evaluation of operational, technical and system aspects of automated border processing before moving into production. To date there are no reports and there have been no contracts entered into for these evaluations.
 - iii) N/A.