

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 110

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:

With regard to the 2006-07 Budget:

- a) Please identify underspends including the additional estimates and Appropriation bills Nos. 5 and 6
- b) Please identify whether the underspends will lapse, be rephased or reallocated
- c) Please indicate if a revised funding profile might occur

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

- a) Customs has identified three measures outlined in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements that have appropriation excess to requirements in 2006-07. They are:
 - Securing Borders against Illegal Foreign Fishing
 - National Security – trialling an unmanned aerial surveillance vehicle
 - Customs – increased Coastwatch surveillance

Customs is currently preparing its end of year financial position. Initial indications are that, whilst there are a number of expenditure variations as would be expected for an organisation of Custom's size, it is expected that Customs will end the financial year with a minimal variance against budget once the excess funding referred to above and in b) below is returned to government.

- b) The excess appropriation totals \$20.8 million. This appropriation has been returned to Government.
- c) The excess appropriation has been returned to Government on a permanent basis and will not be rephased or reallocated to Customs.