

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC AGENCY

Question No. 20

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

What is the objective, nature and scope of the Automated Number Plate Recognition Scoping Study?

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

Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) utilises camera and optical character recognition technology to recognise and capture vehicle number plates, The ANPR Scoping Study aims to examine the feasibility and options for implementing a national ANPR capability, linking existing and future fixed and mobile ANPR cameras to a national system.

The Scoping Study is examining the existing and potential application of ANPR technology for use in the spheres of road safety, law enforcement and national security. A final report including recommendations will be delivered to the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management – Police and the Australian Transport Council in November 2008. The final report will include:

- An environmental scan which examines international approaches to the use of ANPR and the evidence in support of a national approach, including identification of anticipated benefits;
- Identification of business requirements and the capabilities required in a national approach;
- An assessment of the technical options required to implement a national ANPR system;
- A comprehensive legislative review;
- A privacy impact assessment;
- Identification of various implementation approaches, including costs and timelines; and
- A cost benefit analysis.

The ANPR Scoping Study will include consultation with all Australian law enforcement agencies, road transport and infrastructure departments as well as a range of Commonwealth Departments.