

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 115

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

There have been reports from the Australian Crime Commission about serious criminality on our wharves. From the viewpoint of the AFP, how serious is the problem and what needs to be done to fix security gaps?

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

Australian law enforcement agencies, including the Australian Federal Police (AFP), have focused on combating criminality at Australian ports and wharves for many years. The AFP, together with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, partner law enforcement agencies including state and territory police services, and the Australian Crime Commission, are continually adapting and responding to the increasingly sophisticated methodologies being used by criminals to conceal their illicit product.

The AFP is of the view that serious organised crime continues to pose a serious risk to the Australian border, in particular around the movement of illicit goods. That is why the AFP, in partnership with other law enforcement agencies, continues to specifically target criminality at the waterfront. It would be inappropriate to comment further as these are operational matters.