

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE15/010) - Importation of Motor vehicles - Programme 1.2: Border Management**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 32) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: If you could provide information on that, it would be very handy. That is only a recent development, so it should not be too onerous a task. I turn now to the issue of the personal importation of motor vehicles. Do you have officers here who deal with that? Or is it a customs matter

Senator KIM CARR: We will take them later on if need be. I am interested to know whether there has been any engagement with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development in regard to the Motor Vehicle Standards Act review, particularly in regard to the personal importation of new vehicles?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I do not know. I will take that question on notice and, hopefully, I will be able to respond at our Customs segment.

Senator KIM CARR: And I will be seeking your advice on the extent of that engagement and the purpose of that engagement—any information you have on how many vehicles might be involved.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Understood.

Senator KIM CARR: Particularly, I am interested in any criminal activity that you are aware of associated with the rebirthing of vehicles.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will take that on notice and I will come back to you.

#### *Answer:*

This question was responded to later in the committee hearing. The responses are on pages 66, 67 and 68 of the Hansard. The additional questions on special purpose vehicles and exports of rebirthed vehicles are the subject of separate QONs (numbers BE15/025 and BE15/010).

- a) I am interested to know whether there has been any engagement with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development in regard to the Motor Vehicle Standards Act review, particularly in regard to the personal importation of new vehicles?

This question was answered on page 66 of the Hansard.

- b) And I will be seeking your advice on the extent of that engagement and the purpose of that engagement—any information you have on how many vehicles might be involved.

This question was answered on pages 66, 67 and 68 of the Hansard.

In addition to the response provided at the hearing, the portfolio has been involved with the review of the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 conducted by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development since its inception. As a member of the Interdepartmental Committee Meeting – Motor Vehicle Standards Act Review, the portfolio has attended meetings on Friday 14 June 2013, Thursday 10 July 2014, Wednesday 25 February 2015 and Friday 29 May 2015. The Portfolio also met with the Review Taskforce at Customs House on Thursday 27 November 2014. The portfolio provided comments on three documents; the Consultation Paper on the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 in May 2013, the Options Discussion Paper in September 2014 and the draft policy Position – Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 in February 2015.

- c) Particularly, I am interested in any criminal activity that you are aware of associated with the rebirthing of vehicles.

This question was answered on page 66 of the Hansard. In addition to the response provided at the hearing, the portfolio is aware of some historical criminal activity relating to rebirthing of stolen motor vehicles. Criminal activity in relation to alleged motor vehicle theft is the responsibility of state and territory law enforcement agencies. Stolen vehicles are not prohibited imports or exports under customs or other border related legislation. Occasionally, the portfolio receives requests from those agencies to assist with locating allegedly stolen vehicles and preventing them from being imported or exported. The portfolio uses its general border regulatory powers under the *Customs Act 1901* to assist partner agencies when requested.