

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE15/017) - Asbestos - Programme 1.2: Border Management**

Senator Singh, Lisa (L&CA 48) asked:

Senator SINGH: Mr Quaedvlieg, I want to ask you some questions in relation to Australia's asbestos ban. We have had an asbestos ban in this country now for some nearly 12 years. Have there been instances of importing building, vehicle or mining products that were asbestos contaminated materials in the past year?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I imagine the answer to that question is yes. I do not have a detailed breakdown but perhaps if I could give you an overview of our enforcement activities then that might go to the essence of your question.

Senator SINGH: You can take it on notice but I would like the actual breakdown of the products and their source country.

Mr Quaedvlieg: We will endeavour to provide that in as much detail as we possibly can.

*Answer:*

As a result of targeted profiling, 97 examinations were conducted on 13 consignments. The following table lists 8 instances where asbestos was found.

| <i>Number of instances</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Item and industry</i>          | <i>Country</i>                     | <i>Action</i>  |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2                          | May 2015    | QLD          | Building Materials / sample tiles | Papua New Guinea                   | Items are seized. This has been identified through an active profile. Matter referred to investigations. Likely infringement notice                                      |
| 1                          | May 2015    | QLD          | Building Materials/ Modular Wall  | China                              | Items are seized. This has been identified through an active profile. Matter referred for investigation and ongoing  |
| 1                          | Nov 2014    | WA           | Mining and Oil gas / gaskets      | Thailand                           | Items are seized. This has been identified through an active profile. Matter referred for investigation and ongoing  |
| 1                          | Jan 2015    | WA           | Mining and Oil gas / gaskets      | Thailand                           | Items are seized. This has been identified through an active profile. Matter referred for investigation and ongoing  |
| 1                          | Sep 2014    | SA           | Vehicle / brake pads              | China                              | Items are seized. This has been identified through an active profile. Matter referred for investigation and infringement notice issue for \$7650                         |
| 1                          | March 2015  | WA           | Diesel motor parts / gaskets      | China                              | Located from routine inspection and adjusting profile. Warning letter sent   |
| 1                          | May 2015    | WA           | On vessel                         | New Zealand / United Arab Emirates | The vessel was searched and goods found and seized. Vessel came from New Zealand but originated in Dubai. Options currently being considered. Likely infringement notice |