

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 100

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:

- a) What was the cost of the upgrade of the INTERCEPT system?
- b) What was the original budget? Was the upgrade within budget?
- c) What is the timeframe for the development of the vessel profile capability?
- d) Exactly what information will it contain?

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

- a) \$1,441,251.81.
- b) \$1,668,818.00. Yes.
- c) The automated vessel profiling capability has been deferred until the latter half of 2007 due to the decision announced in December 2005, to introduce a mandatory maritime crew visa for sea crew intending to arrive in Australia and to record all sea crew movements on appropriate Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' databases. These initiatives will require significant systems changes that must take priority over development of the vessel profiling system.
- d) It is proposed that the system will accord "points" to an arriving vessel against criteria such as previous ports of call, makeup of crew, previous visits to Australia. This system will provide analysts with a prioritised list of vessels that present, prima facie, varying degree of risk to the border.