

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 63

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

1. With reference to the \$7.9 million announced to purchase 20 additional Smart Gates to streamline border processing, and the simultaneously announced staff cuts of 190 positions, does the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (the agency) foresee any problems associated with reducing staff before Smart Gates are shown to effectively take their place?
2. Does the agency have plans to install Smart Gates at departure points?

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

1. The number of positions referred to is an agency-wide reduction. Staff reductions relevant to SmartGate will be managed gradually to align with the staged rollout of additional SmartGate capacity, and increased SmartGate usage.
2. Customs and Border Protection has developed a high level strategy for improving, enhancing and expanding automated border processing. This strategy makes provision for assessing the feasibility of implementing an automated border processing system for departures.