

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 127**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

Could you give me the various dates for the decisions [relating to contract extensions]?

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

The contract for the three Reims aircraft expires on 31 December 2004. The contracts for the five Dash-8 aircraft and the 412 helicopter expire on 30 June 2005.

The contracts provide that extensions of services may be made at any time not less than six months before termination. The deadlines for notification of extension therefore are 30 June 2004 for the Reims aircraft and 31 December 2004 for the other two.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 128**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

Do they [part-time Torres Strait Customs officers] have enforcement powers?

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

Yes. The Torres Strait Customs officers have the same powers under the Customs Act as other officers. Together with the officers from the Customs office on Thursday Island they are also able to exercise additional powers in relation to search and seizure that are only applicable in the Protected Zone as identified in the Torres Strait Treaty.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 129**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

If it is before the reporting date for questions in estimates, can you let us know whether or not it [the old CADF] has been signed off?

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

The Cargo Automation Development Fund (CADF) was not discussed at the June 16 meeting of Customs National Consultative Committee (CNCC). To obtain industry sign off of the proposed method of disbursement for CADF, Customs intends to raise this matter at the next meeting of the CNCC due to be held in September 2004.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 130**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

Has Customs kept itself informed about how the money [to upgrade screening infrastructure at Tullamarine] has been spent over the past year? If so, are you able to articulate what has been spent on?

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

Yes. Customs has been kept informed of the progress with the infrastructure development works at Tullamarine (Melbourne International Airport).

Customs and AQIS jointly provided funding for the works. The funding was transferred to the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) as the Commonwealth Department responsible for management of the project. Detailed financial details may be obtained from DOTARS.

Project funds have been expended on:

- The expansion and refurbishment of passenger examination and queuing areas;
- The relocation of Customs office accommodation to enable expansion of the examination area;
- Provision of new office accommodation for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 131**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

[In respect of the mail centres at Sydney and Melbourne] Apparently the money is there, isn't it?

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

As part of the Federal Government's response to foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other quarantine risks, \$49.4m is being provided to Australia Post over four years, from 2001-02 to 2004-05, to improve infrastructure and staffing to increase the inspection of incoming international mail to 100%. Part of this funding is being provided for new gateway facilities in Melbourne and Sydney to allow for the increased inspection of mail.

Australia Post announced on 23 June 2004 that Grindley Constructions Pty Ltd will commence the refit of the Sydney Parcel Centre at Clyde at the end of June to better accommodate the 100 per cent screening of international mail.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 132**

**Senator Bishop asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2004:**

What is the basis for Customs taking \$25,000 out of the CADF trust account?

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

An estimate of \$25,000 has been made for spending from the Cargo Automation Development Fund (CADF) for the financial year 2004-2005.

This estimate is a full-year extrapolation from spending from CADF for the period 1 July 2003-30 April 2004 (\$20,518.02). This spending covered:

- a) legal fees for the independent Probity Advisor for the Customs and industry Expert Working Group (EWG) developing the disbursal method for the Fund (\$12,577.78);
- b) advertising for expressions of interest for disbursal of the Fund (\$6,907.43); and
- c) travel for the single interstate industry member of the EWG to attend two meetings (\$1032.81).

The estimate for 2004-2005 reflects the possibility that the EWG may be required to reconvene during this period.