

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

Question No. 80

Senator Ronaldson asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

- a) Are you aware of a policy paper called “Protecting Australia, Protecting the Australian Way”?
- b) This was a policy paper written by Julia Gillard when she was shadow immigration minister? Was the Prime Minister correct when she said that she was the substantive author of a policy paper which became Labor’s policy (on border protection) during an interview with Laurie Oakes conducted on 27 June 2010?

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

This question was directed to Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs, Justice, Privacy and Freedom of Information.

As this question involves a matter of political party policy development, Customs and Border Protection refers the Senator to the Minister, pursuant to Senate resolution r.1.16 “An officer of a department of the Commonwealth or of a State shall not be asked to give opinions of policy, and shall be given reasonable opportunity to refer questions asked of the officer to superior officers or to a Minister”.