

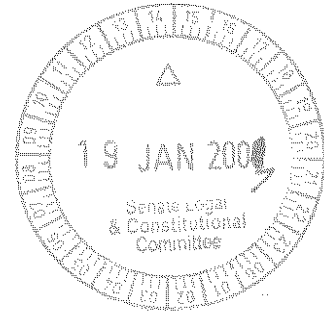


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16 January 2007

Ms Jackie Morris
Acting Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Department of Senate
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au



Dear Ms Morris

RE: INQUIRY INTO CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (AUGMENTING OFFSHORE POWERS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2006 (COMMONWEALTH)

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the inquiry into the *Customs Legislation Amendment (Augmenting Offshore Powers and Other Measures) Bill 2006* (the Bill). I wish to indicate support for the Bill.

I note that the Bill contains provision for:

- customs officers to conduct searches and seize items immediately after boarding a ship or aircraft for border enforcement purposes;
- duty recovery and payments of duty under protest;
- employment arrangements for customs brokers; and
- making false or misleading declarations when using the electronic SmartGate passenger processing system.

In particular, I welcome the provisions which will empower Customs officers and other Commonwealth officers to conduct personal searches for, take possession of and retain weapons, items that may assist a person to escape detention, and evidence of the commission of a relevant offence. I note that these new powers are designed to ensure the personal safety of the officers, help prevent the escape of a person detained as a suspect, and help prevent the disposal of evidence.

I also welcome the provision at subsection 185AA(7) of the Bill which provides that if during a search, evidence of the commission of an offence against a law of the

Commonwealth, a State or a Territory is found, that evidence may be used or given to another body for use in investigating or prosecuting the relevant offence.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R McCREADIE', written in a cursive style.

R McCREADIE
Commissioner of Police