

Greg Hood

- On behalf of the ATSB, I'd like to express my deepest sympathies to the families of the passengers and crew on-board MH370. We deeply regret that we have not been able to locate the aircraft, nor those 239 souls on board that remain missing.
- In saying this, the ATSB acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of hundreds of dedicated professionals from many organisations in Australia and from around the world who have contributed unsparingly to the search.
- The ATSB led the under-water search with contributions of some of the best expertise available. This includes expertise from representatives of the Search Strategy Working Group established at the very beginning of the search. Representatives came from Inmarsat, Thales, Boeing, the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) of the United Kingdom, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the United States, Australia's Defence Science Technology Group and the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation. Other major contributions came from Geoscience Australia and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), particularly with respect to drift modelling.
- The best possible methods and expertise were used to analyse the limited available evidence at the different stages of the search. This was done to narrow down a potential wide area for the location of the aircraft of 1.12m square kilometres along an arc in the Indian Ocean.
- For the initial search this was narrowed to 60,000 square kilometres in an effort to best use the available resources. With a commitment of additional resources from the Malaysian, Chinese and Australian Governments the area was later expanded to 120,000 square kilometres.
- The overall resourcing was in the order of \$198 million. Australia's contribution was \$63 million. Funds of \$115 million were provided by Malaysia and \$20 million from China.
- The ATSB and the Search Strategy Working Group were best placed to try and identify a search area based on the available

evidence at the time. At the ATSB, we exercise great care to not engage in conjecture nor speculation. At each stage, at each opportunity for a review, the totality of every available piece of information was considered.

- Importantly, the ATSB and the Search Strategy Working Group were open and transparent about the work we undertook. Sixteen reports were published which I have here. I have copies to table the final search report published in October 2017. All the reports are publicly available for download from the ATSB's website.
- Following the completion of the 120,000 square kilometres, the search was suspended on 17 January 2017. A final report into the search was published on 3 October 2017 which completed the ATSB's involvement.
- Mr Peter Foley, the Australian Government's Director for the search, was seconded to the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) in the Department for MH370. The JACC is now the agency responsible for providing advice and public information in relation to Australia's engagement.
- I would like to ask Mr Foley to come forward to assist with answering the Senators' questions.