

Question on notice no. 321

Portfolio question number: 109

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham: asked the Department of Defence on 2 November 2023—

- (1. How many Bushmasters were available for use by the Australian Army in May 2022?
 - a. How many are now available?
2. How many additional Bushmasters have been built and provided to the Australian Army since May 2022?
3. How many Bushmasters have been supplied to Ukraine since May 2022?
4. How many Bushmasters have exited service for other reasons since May 2022 and what are those reasons?
5. How many more Bushmasters are contracted to be built and when will they be provided?
6. How much additional funding has been provided to the ADF since May 2022 for the building and purchasing of additional Bushmasters?

Answer —

See attached.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2023-24 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Department/Agency: Defence
Topic: Bushmasters

Senator: Simon Birmingham
Portfolio Question reference number: 109
Type of question: Written, 2 November 2023

Question:

1. How many Bushmasters were available for use by the Australian Army in May 2022?
 - a. How many are now available?
2. How many additional Bushmasters have been built and provided to the Australian Army since May 2022?
3. How many Bushmasters have been supplied to Ukraine since May 2022?
4. How many Bushmasters have exited service for other reasons since May 2022 and what are those reasons?
5. How many more Bushmasters are contracted to be built and when will they be provided?
6. How much additional funding has been provided to the ADF since May 2022 for the building and purchasing of additional Bushmasters?

Answer:

1. In May 2022, 857.
 - a. As of November 2023, 763.
2. 78 new Bushmasters were ordered in May 2023. These are expected to enter into service between April and December 2025
3. 80.
4. 34.
 - a. 15 – gifted to the Indonesian Military as part of a Government-to-Government agreement.
 - b. Five – exited service due to damage not cost effective to repair.
 - c. 14 are committed to meet Fiji's request to purchase additional Bushmasters, as part of a Government-to-Government agreement.
5. See the response to question 2.
6. Details of funding arrangements for the Department of Defence are set out in the Defence Portfolio Budget Statement.