

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 152
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: AKADEMIK SHOKALSKIY - COST RECOVERY
Hansard Page: 37
Question Date: 20 October 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator McGrath asked:

Senator McGRATH: What action has been taken against the owners, I presume, of this Russian flagged ship to recover the cost?

Dr Gales: The Minister for the Environment has made clear that the department will pursue retrieving those costs, and that process is in play at the moment.

Senator McGRATH: Why have not they paid up?

Dr Gales: I think it is quite an involved process when insurance companies are involved. There is some time required.

Senator McGRATH: What would the impact on your budget be if the moneys are not recouped?

Dr Kennedy: The impact will be on both the government's budget and in particular the department's budget, so we would handle with AAD and any other division any unanticipated increase in their costs. We cannot go to the detail of the actions being undertaken, but we are happy to take that on notice and perhaps provide information on notice. We can assure you that actions are being taken, consistent with the government's intent to recover those moneys.

Senator McGRATH: If you could, that would be good. Thank you

Answer:

The Minister has previously indicated that the Government expects to recover the costs it incurred in rescuing the MV Akademik Shokalskiy. The Department is taking appropriate actions to recover the outstanding amounts.

At this stage the Department is not able to provide any further information as to the detail of those specific actions.