

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/042) - Patrol Ships - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 75) asked:

Senator PRATT: There was talk of design flaws associated with that. I am just trying to reconcile what you are saying with news—

Mr Pezzullo: When you say, 'talk,' Senator, sorry, what do you mean?

Senator PRATT: There was news in the media last year. I can give it to you. WIN News said exclusively that the delivery date had been pushed back to mid-2017. There was some talk of production glitches.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will take it on notice, Senator. It is certainly not something that has been brought to my attention. My anticipation always was that they were going to be commissioned in mid-2017, and we are on track for that.

Answer:

At the time of the Additional Estimates Hearing on 27 February 2017 the Fast Response Boats (FRBs) were expected to be operational in mid-2017.

As previously advised in response to Question on Notice SE16/122, delivery of the FRBs was estimated to be late 2016 at the time that the project was first announced. Following detailed design work to maximise the safety of the vessels and prevent a repeat of the Malu Sara tragedy the expected operational date was revised to mid-2017.