

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/007) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Macdonald (L&CA 57) asked:

In addition, we have smaller aircraft as well, including helicopters. I might get you a breakdown of our current fleet—aircraft and vessels—and then the augmentation that is provided for in the 2014-15 budget.

CHAIR: Could you add to that where they will be based? Clearly, I think most of them are now based in Darwin, Cairns or—

Mr Pezzullo: In terms of the aircraft, we will come back to you on notice, but, essentially, our aircraft might have a maintenance and host base, but they operate pretty spare. Depending on the requirement, they might sortie out of Darwin or other locations where the company is centred, but they can basically operate from just about all over Australia. Given that they are Dash 8s, they are designed to operate from fairly bare strips. In terms of our vessels—and, again, we will explain this in more detail on notice—they do not quite have the same home-porting arrangement that you might be thinking about that the Royal Australian Navy has. Because they are commercially maintained, they are not warships as such. They might sortie from a particular home port for maintenance or logistics reasons, but they are pretty self-sufficient. Depending on where we might want to mount operations—right around Australia on 360 degree basis—they can operate at most ports. But, again, we will come back to you on that.

Answer:

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service marine fleet comprises the following assets:

6 x *Bay* Class (38m)

8 x *Cape* Class (58m) – 1 operational, 1 undergoing sea trials, 6 in various stages of production. Expected to be fully operational by the end of 2015.

ACV Thaiyak – to commence operations in September 2014

4 x *River* Class (11.9m)

19 x *Port* Class (6.59m)