

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/015) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (L&CA 74) asked:

Mr Pezzullo: ... Under the initiatives that are now funded through the measures that we have been discussing, we will be acquiring at least three to operate in the Torres Strait. They will be fast inshore patrol craft designed to support tactical operations, particularly targeting rivers, bays and coastal and small island locations. Three of those will be additional to the fleet we already have up there, and we will acquire them as part of this program.

...

Senator KIM CARR: When will they be deployed?

Mr Pezzullo: I will need to take that on notice, but as soon as we can acquire them. It is not a particularly complicated procurement challenge. It is not like getting a warship. But I do not think we are talking weeks; we are probably talking months.

Answer:

Contingent on the identification of a capability solution that meets operational, system and safety requirements, the three Torres Strait vessels' procurement will be conducted in the 2014-15 financial year. The vessels are expected to enter into service in mid-2015 depending on source selection.