

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/026) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Singh (L&CA 88-89) asked:

Mr Quaedvlieg: The handover of Bay Class boats to Malaysia is scheduled to occur before the first half of 2015 is over. The formalisation of that handover will be accompanied by a deed. We are in the process of drafting the form and content of that deed. We will engage with our Malaysian counterparts in the MMEA over the period of the next few months to settle that deed, and the deed will be finalised and signed well before the vessels are actually handed over.

Senator SINGH: Could you table copy of that deed once it is finalised?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will have to take that on notice. There may be some bilateral issues. Malaysia may be sensitive to that. I will take some advice as to whether we can. If we can, I am certainly happy to do that. But I am not in a position to commit to that at this point in time.

Answer:

An exchange of letters and deed are being developed in consultation with Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and will be finalised during 2014. Australian Customs and Border Protection Service does not envisage that the finalised Deed would be made public. It will be a legal document that may contain confidential information. Confidentiality arrangements will be discussed with Malaysia during preparation of the Deed.