

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/212) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Can you please outline whether the final deed gifting vessels to Sri Lanka was formally signed at the Australia-Sri Lankan Joint Working Group on People Smuggling and Other Transnational Crime on 22-23 April 2014 in Canberra?

a. If not, why?

b. If so, may a copy be tabled please?

c. If not, why? I take it the deed has now been finalised, as per the outline in the response AE14/159.

Answer:

The final deed of transfer of vessels to Sri Lanka was signed on 3 June 2014 in Colombo by the Australian Head of Mission in Sri Lanka and the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy who was required to sign the deed but was not present at the Australia-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on People Smuggling and Other Transnational Crime.

The finalised Deed is not able to be made public because it would not be in the public interest to table a confidential document which may prejudice relations with foreign countries and undermine any potential cooperation and agreement on ameliorating people smuggling issues at an international level.