

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/228) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What Customs and Boarder Protection Department assets are used as part of OSB?
What are the costs involved with deploying these assets for OSB?

Answer:

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), contributes the following surveillance and response assets to Border Protection Command, the lead for Operation Sovereign Borders Detection, Interception and Transfer Task Group:

- 14 contracted aircraft: Ten Dash-8 surveillance aircraft, two Reims surveillance aircraft, and two helicopters; and
- Nine vessels: comprising one Cape Class vessel, six Bay Class vessels, and two contracted vessels (ACV Ocean Protector, the ACV Triton).

These ACBPS assets are not specifically tasked against Operation Sovereign Borders, but are utilised to generate maritime domain awareness against eight maritime threats: illegal activity in protected areas; marine pollution; prohibited imports and exports; illegal exploitation of natural resources; illegal maritime arrivals; compromises to bio-security; piracy, robbery and violence at sea; and maritime terrorism.

Consistent with this approach, ACBPS is funded to achieve targets in square nautical mile of aerial surveillance and the number of patrol days, and it is not possible to disaggregate costs in any accurate and meaningful way against each threat.