

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE14/292) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Can the department table the Joint Agency Task Force (force protection reviews) reports about Manus Island?

- a. What did these Joint Agency Task Force (force protection reviews) reports recommend?
- b. What changes to infrastructure did the Joint Agency Task Force (force protection reviews) reports recommend?
- c. At what level were the departmental officers who assisted with preparation of the report?
- d. What percentage of the improvements recommended were completed prior to the events of 16-18 February?
- e. Why was the progress report delivered earlier than expected (due 31 March, delivered 25 March), however the final report that was due in April was in fact not completed on time (completed in May)?

*Answer:*

In its current form, the force protection review of the Manus Offshore Processing Centre by the *Operation Sovereign Borders* Joint Agency Taskforce is classified. However, an unclassified version is attached, that includes a summary of recommendations and their progress as at 16 February 2014 and 23 June 2014.

- a. The force protection review undertaken by the *Operation Sovereign Borders* Joint Agency Task Force in October 2013 made multiple recommendations to improve security arrangements at the Manus Offshore Processing Centre.
- b. The force protection review undertaken by the *Operation Sovereign Borders* Joint Agency Task Force in October 2013 recommended improvements to infrastructure at the Manus Offshore Processing Centre including fencing, lighting, installation of closed circuit television, relocation of the logistics hub and establishment of a potable water supply.
- c. A range of suitably qualified and experienced officers from the Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Immigration and Border Protection were involved in the preparation of the force protection review of the Manus Offshore Processing Centre by the *Operation Sovereign Borders* Joint Agency Task Force.

- d. The report made a number of overarching recommendations, each with a number of elements. Providing a percentage value for the completed overarching recommendations is not indicative of the progress of each element. Please refer to the attached summary.
- e. The initial force protection reviews undertaken by the *Operation Sovereign Borders* Joint Agency Task Force and subsequent implementation progress reports have been conducted and delivered to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection according to the following schedule:

Manus initial report October 2013	delivered 5 November 2013;
Implementation progress report February 2014	delivered 19 March 2014;
Implementation progress report March-April 2014	delivered 8 May 2014; and
Implementation progress report May-June 2014	delivered 2 July 2014.