

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE14/599) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

Senator Whish-Wilson (Written) asked:

What contact does the Department have with France regarding our cooperation on patrols in the Southern Ocean?

*Answer:*

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service has an established and mature relationship with France for the conduct of maritime patrols in areas of mutual interest. The *Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic on Cooperation in the Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories Heard Island and the McDonald Islands* and the *Agreement on the Cooperative Enforcement of Fisheries Laws between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic in the Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands* formalise the cooperative enforcement activities Australia undertakes with France in the Southern Ocean.

When managing cooperative arrangements in the Southern Ocean, the relationship is exercised between Commander Border Protection Command and his French counterpart, the Commandant supérieur des forces armées de la zone sud de l'océan Indien.