

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/184) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Xenophon (Written) asked:

In the Budget Estimates hearings earlier this year, I put a number of questions on notice about the future operation of the Australian Border Force (ABF).

I was advised the structure, legislative framework and staff training elements of the ABF were not yet finalised.

I understand recruiting has now begun for the ABF and Individuals offered a role will be recruited as ACBPS officers, and will transition to become the first Australian Border Force officers on 1 July 2015.

- a. Has it been determined under what legislative framework – Act or Regulations – the Border Force will operate? If so, what are the frameworks?
- b. What will be the staff and executive structure of the Border Force?

Answer:

a. Legislative changes will be required to establish the Australian Border Force within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Legislation for this purpose is expected to be introduced into the Parliament in the 2015 Autumn sitting period. The Customs Administration Act 1985, which provides the legislative basis for the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and related matters, is expected to be repealed, subject to the passage and commencement of the new legislation.

b. Iterative design work is continuing in the form of pilots and trials and the evaluation of their outcomes will inform the future structure of the Australian Border Force.