

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(43) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Crossin asked:

Darwin Detention Centre

1. What are the contractual arrangements between DIMA, Defence, AFMA and Finance and Administration in relation to this Centre?
2. What discussions or arrangements have been made to excise the Detention Centre to allow the sale of the defence land it is on at the Defence establishment Berrimah?
3. Please outline AFMA's role and contractual arrangements in relation to the Detention Centre?
4. Are there any plans or budgeted costs to provide for a new entrance to the centre that would provide access without going through the Defence Establishment?
5. What is the annual amount of running and keeping this Centre?

Answer

1. There is a Memorandum of Understanding being developed between Defence and DIMA in relation to the use of the facility and services. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Department of Finance and Administration do not have an active role in the facility.
2. Several meetings have been held between DIMA and Defence in relation to the separation of services and sub-division of land that DIMA occupies. Defence had engaged consultants to prepare preliminary options and costings. Advice from Defence is that the plans will be further developed and works on the separation of services would begin post July 2006.
3. AFMA has no active role in the detention centre and there are no contractual arrangements in place.
4. DIMA and the Department of Defence have held discussions in relation to a new entrance to the detention facility from Amy Johnson Ave. At this stage funding has not been assigned for a new entrance. However, Defence has engaged consultants to develop a concept design for the sub-division of the land and separation of services.
5. The maintenance cost for the centre this financial year, as at 22 February 2006, is approximately \$57,000. Last financial year (2004-05), the maintenance cost was approximately \$102,000.