

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 62**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:**

- a) What is the yearly running and maintenance cost per plane and UAV per year?
- b) What is the purchase/lease cost and projected maintenance cost of the ACV Triton?
- i) Provide the final cost breakdown of the Triton, indicating yearly maintenance and running costs.
- ii) Provide the total number of operational days the Triton is targeted to make in 2006-07.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- a) BPC does not routinely use UAVs in operations. Aircraft running and maintenance costs are the responsibility of the surveillance contractors, and are not separately identified in contract charges.
- b) The vessel lease cost over 12 months for *ACV Triton*, crossing over financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, is \$7,503,450 ex GST. Customs does not pay vessel maintenance costs as they are included in the overall lease cost.
- i) The final estimated cost breakdown for the 12 month lease period from 29 January 2007 to 28 January 2008:  
  
Estimated total operational costs = \$17,471,889 ex GST
- ii) 111 operational days are targeted for 2006-07.