

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 79

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

- a) In respect of the Ministers' joint announcement on 9 May 2006 that \$14 million has been allocated in the current budget to fund the use of civilian charter vessels to tow apprehended illegal foreign fishing vessels to shore, for each month of this financial year under that scheme:
- i) what costs have been incurred;
 - ii) what payments have been made to owners of civilian charter vessels for towing apprehended illegal foreign fishing vessels to shore;
 - iii) on how many occasions has a civilian charter vessel been engaged to perform this service; and
 - iv) what is the name of each civilian charter vessel engaged to tow apprehended illegal foreign fishing vessels to shore;
- b) for each civilian charter vessel used:
- i) what is its home port;
 - ii) where did it travel under the charter arrangements; and
 - iii) by whom is it owned;
- c) for what period of time is the \$14 million allocated.

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

Refer to Mr Ruddock's reply to the Hon Arch Bevis MP, House of Representatives Question on Notice No 4879 of 27 November 2006.