

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(251) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

When was the decision taken to expand the capacity at airport lodge from the initial accommodation contract? How many was it expanded by and when? Were there subsequent variations to the contract in order to expand the capacity? When was that? When was the decision taken to expand the capacity of Airport Lodge to 400? When was the contract signed? When was work begun and what work was begun prior to any announcement being made?

Answer:

The construction and planned expansion of the Airport Lodge was a commercial decision made by the owners prior to the Department's involvement.

Stage One of the Airport Lodge provided capacity for 200 and Stage Two provided a capacity for a further 200. Stage Two became operational in October 2010.

This was a private development. The owner advised the Department that the intention was always to have the capacity for 400.

The additional capacity was under construction at the time the Department entered into a lease agreement with the owner. The lease agreement was signed on 25 June 2010.