

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 39

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Senator BRANDIS: Okay. I have one last question. You may need to take this on notice. Can you give us the figure of approximately how much on average it costs your agency for its part in the interception of an unauthorised vessel?

Mr Carmody: We will take that on notice and provide what we can.

Senator BRANDIS: Are you able to give me even an approximate figure, to the nearest \$100,000?

Mr Carmody: We will look to do that. I do not have it now and it would be hazardous for me to guess.

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

Customs and Border Protection's maritime surveillance, detection and response efforts are directed at eight maritime threats.

1. Illegal activity in protected areas
2. Marine pollution
3. Prohibited imports and exports
4. Illegal exploitation of natural resources
5. Irregular maritime arrivals
6. Compromises to bio-security
7. Piracy, robbery and violence at sea
8. Maritime terrorism

Surveillance and response assets are deployed to generate maritime domain awareness against the eight maritime threats, rather than a specific task such as an Irregular Maritime Arrival. Consistent with this approach, Customs and Border Protection is funded to achieve targets in square nautical mile aerial surveillance and on-water surveillance and response patrol days.

Accordingly, it is not possible to disaggregate costs in the way sought by the Honourable Senator.