

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-148)

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Question

At page 167 of the MYEFO document it states that “The Government will provide \$81.2 million over four years to increase the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's operations in Australia's northern waters in response to maritime people smuggling. This measure includes funding to extend current leases for the Australian Customs Vessel (ACV) Triton and ACV Ocean Protector to 31 December 2014; extend the current lease for the Reims aircraft to 30 June 2015 and increase flight hours for existing Dash 8 aircraft to 30 June 2017; and extend the capability of the existing Australian Maritime Identification System to expand information exchange capability with Indonesian agencies.

Please provide a breakdown of the \$81.2 million and provide details of the cost for the ACV Triton, Ocean Protector, and the Dash 8 aircraft.

Answer:

The cost of extending the contract for the ACV *Triton* for 6 months is \$16.8m, including vessel lease, fuel, crew, enforcement officers and other vessel operating costs.

The cost of extending the contract for the ACV Ocean Protector for 6 months is \$25.0m, including vessel lease, fuel, crew, enforcement officers and other vessel operating costs.

The cost of increasing the number of surveillance hours on the Dash 8 aircraft is \$18.6m over four years. The cost of increasing the number of surveillance hours on the REIMS aircraft is \$7.6m over four years.

With respect to the Australian Maritime Identification System, the total cost will be \$5.7m over four years.

An allocation of \$7.5m has been made for the purchase of lifeboats to support Operation Sovereign Borders.