

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/340) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

How many “on-water” incidents have there been since the beginning of OSB?

How many of these are non-SIEVs?

Answer:

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection has stated that all serious on-water incidents would be reported. To date, there have been two serious on-water incidents:

- The sinking of an Indonesian vessel with loss of life off Java on 26 September 2013.
- The inadvertent incursion into Indonesia’s territorial sea by Border Protection Command assets between December 2013 and January 2014.

Operation Sovereign Borders only deals with SIEVs in regards to on-water operations. Other maritime threats are handled by Border Protection Command outside of their role in the Joint Agency Task Force.