

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/356) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Have the captains of any Australian vessels involved in Operation Sovereign Borders raised concerns, formally or informally, about the safety of their crew in relation to the new activities that they are being asked to carry out?

Answer:

A range of stakeholders were consulted in the development and implementation of policies for Operation Sovereign Borders, noting that the safety of all personnel involved in this operation, including crew, is paramount. Notably, as part of planning for Operation Sovereign Borders, both force protection measures and workplace health and safety requirements were reviewed to ensure the primacy of safety for personnel assigned to maritime border security operations.

There are no unmitigated safety issues relating to Operation Sovereign Borders.