

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 101**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:**

Ashmore Reef Vessel: Please provide a general description of the requirement you are seeking.

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

The Ashmore Islands Customs Vessel (AICV) will be a chartered vessel with full crew and logistic re-supply included in the charter arrangements. The AICV is required to be stationed at Ashmore Islands for approximately 330 days per year and will operate as a command centre for Customs and Environment officers involved in maritime enforcement patrols, environmental management and marine science activities.

It is required to be equipped with two (Government furnished) high-speed tenders for patrols of the marine reserves and associated island and reef ecosystems and will need to be able to launch and retrieve these tenders in conditions up to and including Sea State 3 on the Beaufort Scale.

This procurement is part of the Government's move to increase protection of Australia's environmentally sensitive Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Reserves, located off the remote north-west Kimberley coast.