

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 May 2009**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(34) Program 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 39) asked:

In effect in this suite of committees, if I can put it that way, the operational one is really the maritime incident management group. Perhaps if I could just ask you to go back over the evidence given the other day and see if you would like to, from your perspective, augment or comment on any of that.

That was evidence given by both the AFP and by Customs.

And perhaps correct what I think is the perception that you have had a division of policy and operational. That was the impression that we were left with the other day.

*Answer:*

The Maritime Incident Management Group meets only when there is a specific need – an extra-ordinary boat arrival issue. It does not meet for all boat arrivals as these processes are well established. The policy and operational processes for unauthorised boat arrivals are well aligned through the multi-agency membership of a range of committees which ultimately are responsible to the Border Protection Committee of Cabinet.