

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 105

Senator Colbeck asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

The Government has indicated there will be savings of \$18.182m as a result of a decline in illegal foreign fishing, which has in turn resulted in reduced activity relating to apprehensions and detention of illegal foreign fishers as well as a reduction in the cost associated with the towing and destruction of their vessels.

1. Can Customs and Border Protection provide further detail on the reason for this cutback?
2. What will the efficiencies involve? Less personnel? Less patrols?

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

1. Customs and Border Protection will deliver savings of \$18.2m per year over four years from 2010/11, reflecting a continuation of reduced apprehensions resulting from the success of in-country programs and on water enforcement in managing illegal foreign fishing.
2. The efficiencies will be made in the areas of processing and transfer of fishers, transitional accommodation facilities and rapid response to illegal landings – none of which involve a reduction in personnel or patrols.