

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

Question No. 97

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator BARNETT: I am happy for you to provide on notice further and better particulars regarding the contracting out of the P3s.

Mr Pezzullo: I can quickly address that. It is not contracted out as such because they are obviously assets. We have a joint agency arrangement with the Department of Defence. The Department of Defence runs an operation known as Operation Resolute which is the Defence contribution to civil maritime surveillance. As part of that operation Defence is required to provide a certain number of P3 hours and Armidale patrol boats, the ones that you referred to earlier that you have been on. With our assets the marine unit and other activities that we contribute that is jointly managed through the Border Protection Command, which is an agency managed on a day-to-day basis by my agency.

Senator BARNETT: Will they be undertaking that surveillance?

Mr Pezzullo: The Defence contribution to the Border Protection Command task, if you like, is managed through Op Resolute and there are no changes to those arrangements.

Ms Kelley: I should clarify that those surveillance hours are not only provided by those aircraft; there are also aircraft that are contracted separately to Customs and Border Protection.

Senator BARNETT: On notice, can you provide details regarding those other services?

Mr Pezzullo: Most certainly.

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

The details of aerial surveillance forecast hours and coverage for the Customs and Border Protection contracted aircraft and the Royal Australian Air Force AP3-C aircraft are as per the following table.

	Forecast Hours			Forecast Coverage (million square nautical miles)		
	Customs and Border Protection Contracted Aircraft	Royal Australian Air Force AP3-C Aircraft	TOTAL	Customs and Border Protection Contracted Aircraft	Royal Australian Air Force AP3-C Aircraft	TOTAL
2011-12	18,465	1,850	20,315	115.3	24.8	140.1