

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

Question No. 121

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:

Senator HUMPHRIES: I want to ask about the arrival on 9 April this year of a boat at Geraldton. ...

Senator HUMPHRIES: Is it true that your organisation was first made aware of the arrival of the vessel, though, by somebody from the *West Australian* newspaper contacting someone in Canberra about this?

Mr Pezzullo: I do not know is the answer. But how that gels with the port authority and a member of the public advising at 2.45 pm, I just do not know.

Senator HUMPHRIES: If you could take that on notice, please, that would be useful. Can you say exactly who first advised Customs and Border Protection?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes. I am advised that an officer of the port authority did so—I do not know if it is privatised there, but it is a state entity—along with a member of the public, either conjointly or separately, advised us at 2.45 pm on that day.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Okay.

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

As detailed in the response to Question on Notice No. 5 from Budget Estimates on 29 May 2013; at approximately 2.40pm AEST on Tuesday 9 April 2013, Geraldton Port Authority and a member of the public independently advised the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) Geraldton District Office by phone of a possible SIEV inside Geraldton Harbour limits.

The member of the public who phoned the ACBPS Geraldton District Office did not identify themselves as an employee of *The West Australian* newspaper. From 3.10pm AEST on Tuesday 9 April 2013 ACBPS media received multiple calls from media outlets including *The West Australian*.