

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 171**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:**

- a) How much of the funding provided for the doubling of Customs NMU surveillance and response capacity has been expended?
- b) Has all funding been expended?
  - (i) If not, how much funding has yet to be expended?
- c) Was there any variation to the stated budget for this program?
  - (i) If so, what was the variation?
  - (ii) Was additional funding provided, or did the program lose funding?
  - (iii) If the program lost funding, where was the funding transferred, and why?
  - (iv) Were any stop-gap measures put in place to

d) What was the stated outcome of the program at the time the funding commenced?

The Government provided additional funding of \$77.4m over four years to double the NMU surveillance and response capability in order to meet increasing demand as a result of the increase in unauthorised arrivals. The funding increased the surveillance and response capacity of the NMU from 1,200 sea days to 2,400 sea days per year.

- (i) Did the program meet its stated outcome?
  - (ii) If not, in which areas did it not meet its stated outcome?
  - (iii) Were any other measures or additional funding required to meet the stated outcome of the program?
- e) Has a review been conducted of the program?
    - (i) If so, could you provide a copy?
    - (ii) If not, why not?
    - (iii) Is one being conducted, or will one be conducted?
    - (iv) Are there any interim reports available?
    - (v) Are there any plans to produce any interim reports?

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

- a) All of the funds provided up until this time for the doubling of Customs NMU surveillance and response capacity have been expended.
- b) Yes.
  - (i) Not Applicable.
- c) No, there have been no variations to the stated budget of this program.
  - (i) Not Applicable.
  - (ii) No
  - (iii) Not Applicable
  - (iv) Not Applicable.
- d) The Government provided additional funding of \$77.4m over four years to double the NMU surveillance and response capability in order to meet increasing demand as a result of the increase in unauthorised arrivals. The funding increased the surveillance and response capacity of the NMU from 1,200 sea days to 2,400 sea days per year.
  - (i) Yes
  - (ii) Not Applicable
  - (iii) No.

- e) No, there have been no reviews of this program.
  - (i) Not applicable
  - (ii) Customs has not been required to conduct a review. Funds were provided on an on-going basis.
  - (iii) There is currently no review of the 'doubling NMU' program and there is currently no plan to review this program.
  - (iv) Not applicable
  - (v) Not applicable