

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 203

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

- a) Since June 2005, on how many occasions was a flight cancelled or shortened due to aircraft unserviceability or crew unavailability (please provide a breakdown), and on which dates did this occur?
- b) On how many occasions have Customs or Coastwatch boats been out-of-service for repairs? Please provide a breakdown of total time (in days) in which a boat was out-of-service due to repairs or other maintenance work.
- c) Could you provide the same figure for the same time periods in 01-02-03-04?
- d) Since June 2005, on how many occasions was a Coastwatch boat patrol cancelled or shortened due to boat unserviceability or crew unavailability (please provide a breakdown), and on which dates did this occur?
- e) On how many occasions have Customs or Coastwatch boats been out-of-service for repairs? Please provide a breakdown of total time (in days) in which a boat was out-of-service due to repairs or other maintenance work.
- f) Could you provide the same figure for the same time periods in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

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

- a) Between 1 June 2005 and 30 November 2005, Coastwatch flights were cancelled or shortened due to aircraft unserviceability or crew unavailability as follows:

	Cancelled	Partially Completed
Aircraft Unserviceable	155	8
Crew Unavailable	158	Nil
Total	313	8

The following table shows the number of times this occurred for each of the relevant months:

	No of times aircraft unserviceable	No of times crew unavailable
June 2005	17	37
July 2005	31	24
August 2005	26	31
September 2005	28	32
October 2005	36	20
November 2005	25	14

- b) The fleet of eight Customs *Bay* class Australian Customs Vessels (ACV) are programmed to deliver up to 2400 operational days each year from 2002-03; or approximately 300 days per ACV per year. Each ACV is also required to undergo an annual survey and maintenance period in addition to the regular routine maintenance conducted between patrols in concurrent with crew changeovers.

In financial year 2004-05, the NMU delivered 2372 operational days. 359 days were spent in maintenance. Additional maintenance days were incurred during the 5-yearly class Renewal requirements for the *Bay Class* vessels.

- c) In financial year 2001-02, the National Marine Unit (NMU) target was 1200 days and it delivered 1356 operational days. 273 days were spent in maintenance.

In financial year 2002-03, the NMU delivered 2332 operational days. A total of 296 days maintenance was conducted across the fleet.

In financial year 2003-04, the NMU delivered 2459 operational days. 317 days were spent in maintenance.

- d) Since June 2005, *Bay Class* Customs vessels have reported twenty one operational vessel days lost due to unplanned maintenance. The monthly breakdown is as follows: July –1, August – 6, Sept – 7, Oct – 7.

No patrols have been cancelled or shortened as a result of crew unavailability.

- e) See c) above.

- f) See c) above.