

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 110

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Please provide details of operational hours of surveillance undertaken by ACS patrol vessels? Since 24 November 2007, has there been a reduction of surveillance hours. If so, please provide details.

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

Customs monitors maritime patrols in sea days. Since 24 November 2007 there has not been a reduction of sea days.

In the 2007-2008 reporting year, Customs eight *Bay* class patrol boats provided 2,509 days against the planned 2,400 sea days per year.

The contract vessel *Oceanic Viking* provided 297 sea days against the planned 200 days per year.

The contract vessel *Triton* provided 199 sea days against the planned 240 days per year. The *Triton* contractors were unable to deliver the full contracted rate of sea days as a result of engine malfunctions and Customs sought redress through the contract for loss and damage suffered.

The contract vessel *Ashmore Guardian* commenced service in April this year and delivered 87 sea days in the 2007-2008 reporting year. The program has a target of 330 sea days per year in a full year in the Ashmore Island and Cartier Island Marine Nature Reserve.