

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

Question No. 34

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Please provide an estimate of the costs of the maintenance of Bay Class vessels for the balance of their service lives.

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

The estimated costs of maintenance of the *Bay* Class vessels are dependent upon the transition period during production of the new *Cape* Class Patrol Boats, tasking levels and emergent defects.

The *Bay* Class vessels will be replaced by *Cape* Class Patrol Boats on a one-for-one basis, with transition upon operational acceptance of the new boats. This will reduce the *Bay* Class vessel maintenance costs in the latter stages of the forward estimates.

Based on current timeframes, Customs and Border Protection expects that a contract for the successful tenderer for the *Cape* Class Patrol Boats will be signed in the first half of 2011. This will enable the scheduling of the *Bay* Class vessel replacement. It is expected that trials of the first new vessel will occur in 2013, with the remainder of the fleet to progressively come into operation through to August 2015.

The total estimated maintenance costs for *Bay* Class vessels, assuming a reduction in number of these vessels as the new patrol boats are rolled out, are:

2010/11	\$7.2m
2011/12	\$11.0m
2012/13	\$12.2m
2013/14	\$5.5m
2014/15	\$1.4m
Total estimate:	\$37.3m