

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0343) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the progress of capacity expansion at Nauru and Manus Island? • How many extra beds will those expansion works create? • When is the expansion expected to be completed? • What is the cost of capacity expansion? • If more than \$15 million – did the Department notify the Public Works Committee of this additional expenditure? • If not, why not? • Did this additional expenditure go out to tender? • If not, why not?

Answer:

Since 8 September 2013, there has been an increase in capacity at the Lombrum OPC in Manus. The works include permanent transferee accommodation, dining, ablutions, laundry, recreation, education, library facilities and all associated engineering services.

Work will begin in early 2014 on the further expansion. Decmil Australia has been engaged as Managing Contractor for this project. Full completion of the site is scheduled for mid-2014.

Construction has begun at the separate East Lorengau site. Full completion of the site is scheduled for mid-2014. In Nauru, the rebuild of OPC 1 continues with full completion scheduled for April 2014.

OPC 2 and 3 achieved practical completion on 24 December 2013.

There will be sufficient beds in Manus and Nauru to accommodate all transferees.

The cost of the capacity expansion on Manus is \$106.9 million. The cost of the expansion on Nauru is \$67.2 million.

A Public Works Committee (PWC) referral was undertaken for the Lorengau OPC with approval received in June 2013.

The decision to expand capacity at the Lombrum OPC occurred at a time when the PWC was prorogued due to the 2013 Federal election, thereby denying the Department the opportunity to Refer the works or apply for Exemption. The Department is committed to briefing the newly appointed PWC Chairperson as soon as is practical.

The works for the Nauru OPC were considered to be subject to an exemption from referral for OPC Public Works passed by the previous Parliament on 29 November 2012.

The works under the additional expenditure went to tender in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.