

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 175

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question after the hearing on 24 May 2012:

RAMSI is now winding down. The 3 pillars - machinery of government, economic governance, and law and justice - will be transferred to bilateral and other donors by July 2013. RAMSI also plans to withdraw its military component in the second half of 2013 and focus only on supporting policing from that date.

- a) In budget papers there is aid contribution to RAMSI of approximately AUD144.9 million. How much of this is administered by the AFP?
- b) What is timeline for drawdown of AFP involvement?

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

- a) In 2012-13 the AFP will administer \$98.5m of Official Development Assistance for RAMSI.
- b) The Participating Police Force (PPF), the policing component within RAMSI, has been in the process of drawdown since the successful Solomon Islands election in 2010 as outlined in the RAMSI Forward Strategy 2008. Currently the AFP has 120 personnel committed to RAMSI, with a targeted drawdown to 109 AFP personnel by June 2013. This drawdown is consistent with the increasing capacity of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), as well as the PPF's shift in focus to the strategic capacity development of the RSIPF.

Whilst the future of RAMSI beyond 30 June 2013 remains the subject of Government consideration, it is envisaged that while many other components of RAMSI will be transferred to bilateral arrangements, the PPF will retain its regional multilateral arrangements under the RAMSI banner.