

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 31

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator HUMPHRIES: I want to ask just quickly about the three maritime vessels that have been provided to Indonesia to assist with border protection activities. When were the vessels provided?

Mr Colvin: They were provided in December 2011.

Senator HUMPHRIES: So they commenced service immediately in Indonesia?

Mr Colvin: I believe so, yes. There may have been a short delay but it was effectively immediately.

Senator HUMPHRIES: How much did they cost?

Mr Colvin: We were allocated \$7.1 million under an initiative by government to build and purchase these vessels. Some of that was also operating costs for the vessels. So, it was \$7.1 million in total. I would have to back and check exactly what each vessel cost to build.

Senator HUMPHRIES: If you could take that on notice: how much they cost. Were they built in Australia?

Mr Colvin: They were built by an Australian company. From memory, they were built in Singapore.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Right. If I could have the specifications for them as well—size, displacement, things like that. In what sea states can they operate?

Mr Colvin: I would have to check that. They can operate out for about 20 nautical miles but I am not sure what their sea state is.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Twenty nautical miles?

Mr Colvin: Approximately, yes.

Senator HUMPHRIES: So they are quite small vessels. They are not meant for sort of crossing the Timor Sea.

Mr Colvin: That is right. They are 16 metre coastal vessels, if you like. Therefore, they are patrolling what a police force would normally patrol. They are not a coastguard and they are certainly not a navy vessel.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Do you know what sort of capacity they have to carry passengers?

Mr Colvin: We would know that but I do not personally know it. I will take that on notice

Senator HUMPHRIES: You mentioned that there was also money there for sustainment of the vessels. Is that just for their operation or is it for training of personnel? What does that cover?

Mr Colvin: It was all of the above. There was some training that we provided to the crew of these vessels. There were also agreements in the contracts about maintenance, that some would be the responsibility of the Australian government, and then there would be a point at which they would be handed over totally to the Indonesian government. There were also funds in relation to ongoing costs such as fuel et cetera. That all has a sunset clause on it. Obviously, we will not be providing that assistance ad infinitum.

Senator HUMPHRIES: If you could, please let me know when the sunset clause cuts in, as to when it finishes or has finished.

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Senator HUMPHRIES: Great, thank you. Just a couple of more questions: do the vessels have geotracking capacity?

Mr Colvin: I will take that on notice.

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

Strategic Marine, an Australian company with shipyards in Perth and Singapore, was contracted to construct the three aluminium hull vessels.

The vessels completed testing and were formally accepted by the AFP on 27 October 2011 and were formally gifted to the Indonesian National Police (INP) Polair in December 2011.

Vessel Specifications:

Length: 16m

Width: 4.3m

Draft: 0.9m

Crew: 6

Engines: 2 x 740 Horsepower

Propulsion: 2 x Hamilton water jets

Speed: 32 Knots

Range: Extensive with 4000L fuel capacity

The vessels' Stability Book Safe Operation Envelope indicate that they are capable of operation in 3.5 metre seas with wind speeds of 27 knots; further operation out to 42 knot wind speeds is capable with reduced wave heights. Operation in these conditions is dependent on experience of crew and other sea conditions (height and frequency of swell and sea and relation of swell and sea to vessels heading).

The vessels are equipped with Geo Tracking equipment.

Capacity to carry passengers

The vessels are currently not configured to carry any persons in addition to crew. The vessels could be configured to carry 6 persons in addition to crew on a "full-time" basis; however this would require life jackets, life rafts and other survival equipment to be added.

If, during normal operation, the vessels came across a SOLAS incident they could potentially carry 23 (+) persons in addition to crew. This however could vary depending on the wind and sea conditions, crew experience and the proficiency of the crew to affect the rescue.

The above is a calculation based on the vessels Stability Book which is theoretical modelling and calculations based upon hydrostatic data. It should also be noted that this has been calculated using Australian standards; Indonesian standards/legislation may differ.

Cost for vessels only was:

a. Executed Contract with Strategic Marine P/L \$4,856,380

Funding Agreements:

- a. Funding Agreement 1 'Operational Support to PS Maritime Operations' executed 5 July 2010, valued at AUD 1,200,000, and does not have an expiration date. (NB. Clause 4 states the period for which the funding was to cover patrol costs).
- b. Funding Agreement 2 'Maintenance and Servicing of Vessels' executed 8 June 2012, valued at AUD \$80,000, and does not have an expiration date.
- c. Funding Agreement 3 'Operational Marine Funding Support' executed 8 June 2012, valued at AUD \$1,000,000, and does not have an expiration date.