

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

#### **REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

#### **A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014**

#### **Question No. 153**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: What are the arrangements surrounding the ordering/purchasing of these lifeboats?

*Answer:*

A competitive procurement process was undertaken to source the lifeboat capability utilising companies currently contracted to ACBPS through the 'additional services' provision of those contracts. This is consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

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#### **Question No. 154**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: How many lifeboats have been purchased?

*Answer:*

The number of lifeboats procured by ACBPS falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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#### **Question No. 155**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: How much does each lifeboat cost?

#### *Answer:*

At 31 January 2014 a total of \$2.5m has been spent on the acquisition of lifeboats including freight and other associated costs. The individual cost of each lifeboat falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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##### **Question No. 157**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: Are they included in Australia's military expenditure?

*Answer:*

No.

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#### **Question No. 156**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: Under which budgetary heading do the cost of these lifeboats fall under?

*Answer:*

The funding for the lifeboats was included in the 2013-14 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook as part of the measure: *Operation Sovereign Borders - strengthening response capability for illegal maritime arrivals*.

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#### **Question No. 171**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: At page 167 of the MYEFO document it states that “The Government will provide \$81.2 million over four years to increase the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's operations in Australia's northern waters in response to maritime people smuggling. This measure includes funding to:

- extend current leases for the Australian Customs Vessel (ACV) Triton and ACV Ocean Protector to 31 December 2014;
- extend the current lease for the Reims aircraft to 30 June 2015 and increase flight hours for existing Dash 8 aircraft to 30 June 2017; and
- extend the capability of the existing Australian Maritime Identification System to expand information exchange capability with Indonesian agencies.

Can you provide a breakdown of the \$81.2 million and provide details of the cost for the ACV Triton, Ocean Protector, the Dash 8 aircraft.

#### *Answer:*

The cost of extending the contract for the ACV *Triton* for 6 months is \$16.8m, including vessel lease, fuel, crew, enforcement officers and other vessel operating costs.

The cost of extending the contract for the ACV Ocean Protector for 6 months is \$25.0m, including vessel lease, fuel, crew, enforcement officers and other vessel operating costs.

The cost of increasing the number of surveillance hours on the Dash 8 aircraft is \$18.6m over four years. The cost of increasing the number of surveillance hours on the REIMS aircraft is \$7.6m over four years.

With respect to the Australian Maritime Identification System, the total cost will be \$5.7m over four years.

An allocation of \$7.5m has been made for the purchase of lifeboats to support Operation Sovereign Borders.

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#### **Question No. 173**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked: With respect to the Australian Maritime Identification System ability to exchange information with Indonesian agencies provide:

- Details of cost associated with the system.
- Details of what Indonesian agencies will receive the information.
- Details of what Indonesian agencies have requested information sharing.
- Details of what limitations have been identified with Indonesian agencies capacity to exchange information with the Australian Maritime Identification System.

*Answer:*

The total cost for Australian Maritime Identification System, will be \$5.7m over four years.

The Indonesian agencies to receive the information are Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MAFF), the Maritime Safety Coordination Organisation (BAKORKAMLA) and the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS).

These three agencies have expressed an interest in the Information Exchange. Representatives of these agencies are in discussion with the Customs and Border Protection Counsellor in Jakarta regarding the details of the information exchange.

Customs and Border Protection will provide hardware, software and training to relevant agencies as some do not currently have the necessary technical expertise or infrastructure for the secure exchange of information.