

## **Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

### **Parliamentary inquiry into the implications of climate change for Australia's National Security – Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

##### **Department of Defence**

**Topic:** Inquiry into the implications of climate change for Australia's National Security - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) - Senator Patrick

**Question reference number:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Rex Patrick

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 14 February 2018

#### **Questions:**

1. Please provide a general outline to the committee on how Defence approaches budgeting for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
2. Please provide details of HADR operations budgets and actuals for the past five financial years. If possible, for actuals, please provide a breakdown of cost associated with national vs international HADR.
3. Please provide details of HADR budget for this financial year.
4. Please provide details of HADR budget for any forward estimate period, if such estimates exist.
5. How many FTE personnel are currently allocated to policy generation, planning or co-ordination of HADR and/or Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC).
6. For this summer's tropical cycle season:
  - a. What Navy assets were/are on short notice for HADR - for ships, please indicate ship name.
  - b. What Air Force assets were/are on short notice for HADR – please indicate aircraft type.
  - c. What Army assets were/are on short notice for HADR – please indicate personnel/asset/aircraft type.

#### **Answers:**

1. Defence does not budget for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) or Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) tasks due to the unpredictability of these events. If a disaster event occurs then costs are usually absorbed within the existing Defence budget.

2. Actual expenditures for HADR operations over the past five financial years are outlined in the table below, which captures the costs directly attributable to international HADR and major DACC operations only.

Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief Task	2017-18 YTD						Total \$'000
	2012-13 \$'000	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	December \$'000	
Cyclone Debbie (QLD)					302.4	4.2	306.6
QLD flood assist	1,688.4	4,190.4	0.6	0.0			5,879.4
Papua New Guinea		287.9			0.6		288.5
Philippines assist		1,965.7	42.0	86.4			2,094.1
Evan assist (Fiji/Samoa)	369.8	0.0		4.4	-4.0	0.1	370.3
Papua New Guinea assist	0.5		0.0		0.0		0.5
Fiji Assist				4,746.5	308.7	35.9	5,091.0
Nepal Assist			134.4	47.6	710.7	0.5	893.2
Warden deployment (East Timor)	5.8	13.7	1.2	0.0		-0.2	20.6
New Zealand Assist					0.1		0.1
Vanuatu Assist						141.8	141.8
Pakistan Assist Two	1.7						1.7
Pacific Assist 2015			2,969.9	147.0		0.3	3,117.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,066.2</b>	<b>6,457.8</b>	<b>3,148.2</b>	<b>5,031.8</b>	<b>1,318.5</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>18,205.1</b>

3. As per Question 1, there are no specific budgets allocated for HADR activities in 2017-18 or the forward estimates.

4. As per Question 1, there are no specific budgets allocated for HADR activities in 2017-18 or the forward estimates.

5. There are several areas in Defence that are responsible for HADR and DACC doctrine/policy development, planning and/or co-ordination. Note that FTE is not usually allocated solely to HADR and DACC functions. The FTE that perform these functions are responsible for the full range of Defence response options and Defence business. Resources are assigned specifically to HADR or DACC only as required through annual business programs or in response to emergencies, depending upon the nature of the emergency and the ability of other government agencies to respond.

6. Over the high risk weather period from 01 October to 30 April each year, Defence is prepared to provide DACC and/or HADR in one to seven days of a domestic or regional emergency. A number of capabilities are on call over the high risk weather period, with any Defence response to a HADR or DACC request dependent on the situation and the effect required. Over the period from 01 October 2017 to 30 April 2018, specific single service assets identified to support HADR and DACC are as follows:

- a. Navy has programmed an amphibious ship (HMAS *Canberra*) to be available for a HADR response. Additionally, Navy programmed a single frigate at both Fleet Base East (HMAS *Parramatta*) and Fleet Base West (HMAS *Toowoomba*) as Operational Response Vessels, which are available to provide assistance for Search and Rescue (SAR) and civil emergencies. A helicopter response capability is also available from Naval Air Station Nowra.
- b. As part of an emergency response Air Force is able to provide a range of air mobility assets (B-300 King Air, C-130J Hercules, C-27J Spartan, KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport and C-17A Globemaster), as well as surveillance,

aero-medical evacuation, communications, logistics support and limited plant operators and tradespersons, depending on the emergency.

- c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, based in Townsville, is the primary on-call Army unit over the high-risk weather period 2017-18. Army also maintains scalable Emergency Support Force units around Australia, which can provide company-level (approximately 100 personnel) emergency response options in the form of general work parties capable of supporting minor community tasking. Army's aviation assets based in Townsville, Darwin and Oakey are available for SAR tasks, carriage of passengers, casualty evacuation and medium or heavy load-lifting. Army also maintains emergency water purification capabilities, and bulk water transportation and storage capabilities in Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane that are available to support an emergency response.