

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-398

**Subject: Import Processing Charges**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has the collection of customs duty, passenger movement charges & import processing charges changed since the advent of COVID-19?

a. To help illustrate, please provide customs duty, passenger movement charges & import processing charges collected by month from July 2019 to August 2020?

**Answer:**

As at the receipt date of this question, the 2019-20 Home Affairs Annual Report was embargoed, prior to its expected tabling on 16 October 2020.

As per the Annual Report, the full year 2019-20 Customs Duty, Passenger Movement Charges and Import Processing Charges revenue is detailed in *Table 9: Purpose 3 – Performance Information* on page 89.

The monthly breakdown for the full year revenue reported in *Table 9: Purpose 3 – Performance Information* of the current Annual Report is provided below:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Customs Duty (\$'billion)</b>	<b>Import Processing Charge (\$'million)</b>	<b>Passenger Movement Charge (\$'million)</b>
July	4.779	36.8	100.8
August	1.547	36.1	100.2
September	0.570	35.9	97.9
October	1.329	38.9	96.5
November	1.183	38.1	101.1
December	1.047	34.1	124.0
January	1.470	35.3	111.8
February	1.254	28.3	75.5
March	1.629	29.9	48.1
April	1.694	30.6	3.9
May	1.449	30.2	1.0
June	1.556	34.4	2.0
<b>Total FY2019-20</b>	<b>19.507</b>	<b>408.7</b>	<b>862.9</b>

The requested 2020-21 Customs Duty, Passenger Movement Charges and Import Processing Charges revenue is embargoed until the 2020-21 Home Affairs Annual Report is tabled in the Parliament.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRYWRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number: CV19-401**

**Subject: Processing of IMAs**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has the processing of irregular maritime arrivals changed since the advent of COVID-19?

a. Has the Department diverted any resources from irregular maritime arrivals processing

to other tasks during COVID-19?

b. To help illustrate how processing of irregular maritime arrivals has changed, please

provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:

i. How many applications are still being processed by the Department? ii. How many applications are being considered by the AAT / Courts?

iii. The average staffing level of the team that processes irregular maritime visas.

c. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data

>

**Answer:**

a. See response at CV19-409 (a).

b.

i. See response at CV19-409 (b) iii.

ii. The Department publishes regular (monthly) reporting, which can be found at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program>.

iii. See response at CV19-409 (b) vi.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRYWRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-402

**Subject: Visa Cancellation and Monitoring of Unlawful Citizens**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has visa cancellation and monitoring of unlawful citizens changed since the advent of COVID-19?

- a. Has the Department diverted any resources from visa cancellations / unlawful citizens management to other tasks during COVID-19?
- b. To help illustrate how processing of visa cancellation has changed, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:
  - i. Visa cancellations in total
    1. Please provide a breakdown of reasons for visa cancellation, including Number of character test visa cancellations (s501) and Number of visa cancellations have been cancelled through s116
  - ii. Number of unlawful non-citizens that have been located
  - iii. Visa holders in employment without work right have been located?
  - iv. People have been removed from onshore detention and deported?
- c. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data

**Answer:**

- (a) The Australian Government is committed to protecting the health and safety of the Australian community and has implemented a range of measures to support the Australian community and visa holders during the COVID-19 period.

The Department of Home Affairs (Department) has diverted minimal resources away from visa cancellations and the management of unlawful non-citizens since the advent of COVID-19. The Australian Border Force (ABF) surged to priority areas to support the whole-of-government COVID-19 response and COVID-19 restrictions impacted the ability to conduct traditional field compliance activities.

Cancellation activity has aligned with Government announcements that temporary visa holders who had been impacted by COVID-19 would keep their visas and the Government would be flexible in considering cases where non-compliance with visa conditions had occurred.

Non-citizens who pose the most serious risk to the Australian community continue to be considered for cancellation under section 116(1)(e) of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act). The combined effect of these changes has been a significant reduction in visa cancellations under section 116 of the Act.

Due to the policy changes impacting onshore caseloads, the Department shifted focus to offshore integrity cases between April and June of FY2019/20 where visa cancellation has been considered under section 128 of the Act. This resulted in a spike in cancellation activity during this period, with a corresponding dip in July and August of FY2020/21 as the pool was depleted.

The Department and the ABF continue to facilitate voluntary assisted returns from the community, as well as voluntary and involuntary removals of unlawful non-citizens (UNCs) from Australia.

While removals have continued, the number of UNCs removed has decreased as a direct result of COVID-19. This is primarily due to border closures, a reduction in the number of commercial flights, the closure of some foreign borders, and an inability to perform escorted removal of high risk persons on commercial flights.

#### **(b)(i) Visa cancellations between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020**

Visa cancellations between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020 by month*		
	2019-20	2020-21 (Jul-Aug)
July	5,150	2,290
August	4,742	1,840
September	5,871	
October	7,458	
November	7,100	
December	3,963	
January	3,256	
February	2,626	
March	2,637	
April	6,848	
May	5,632	
June	3,954	
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,237</b>	<b>4,130</b>

*A visa may be recorded as cancelled more than once. An example of a visa being recorded as cancelled more than once is if the visa is cancelled, the cancellation is subsequently revoked or set aside, and then the visa is cancelled again.*

*- A cancellation may be revoked or set aside for a number of reasons, including further legal proceedings, and administrative or jurisdictional errors, etc. Duplicates may exist.*

*- Includes s501F (consequential) cancellations.*

**s116 general visa cancellations between**

1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020 by month*		
	2019-20	2020-21 (Jul-Aug)
July	445	174
August	527	118
September	491	
October	405	
November	407	
December	413	
January	391	
February	474	
March	382	
April	11	
May	104	
June	105	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>292</b>

\*A visa may be recorded as cancelled more than once. An example of a visa being recorded as cancelled more than once is if the visa is cancelled, the cancellation is subsequently revoked or set aside, and then the visa is cancelled again.

- A cancellation may be revoked or set aside for a number of reasons, including further legal proceedings, and administrative or jurisdictional errors, etc. Duplicates may exist.

s501 visa cancellations between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020 by month*		
	2019-20	2020-21 (Jul-Aug)
July	47	129
August	51	136
September	53	
October	77	
November	87	
December	79	
January	100	
February	112	
March	107	
April	57	
May	116	
June	135	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>265</b>

\*A visa may be recorded as cancelled more than once. An example of a visa being recorded as cancelled more than once is if the visa is cancelled, the cancellation is subsequently revoked or set aside, and then the visa is cancelled again.

- A cancellation may be revoked or set aside for a number of reasons, including further legal proceedings, and administrative or jurisdictional errors, etc. Duplicates may exist.

\*\* Excludes s501F (consequential) cancellations.

**(b)(ii) and (iii)**

## Location events of unlawful non-citizens between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020

Location events of unlawful non-citizens between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020*	
Location event of unlawful non-citizens	22,173
Location event of illegal workers	1,084

*\* Some non-citizens may have been located more than once in any given program year. Each location event is counted.*

## Removal from onshore detention between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020

Removal from onshore detention between 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020*	
Total	3,372

*\* Removal from onshore immigration detention to their country of origin or a third country and may include IMAs.*

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-405

**Subject:** Collection of visa application charges

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has the collection of visa application charges changed since the advent of COVID-19?

- a. To help illustrate, please provide visa application charges collected by month from July 2019 to August 2020?

**Answer:**

As at the receipt date of this question, the 2019-20 Home Affairs Annual Report was embargoed, prior to its expected tabling on 16 October 2020.

As per the Annual Report, the full year 2019-20 Visa Application Charge revenue is detailed in *table 7: Purpose 2 – Performance Information* on page 70.

The monthly breakdown for the full year revenue reported in *Table 7: Purpose 2 – Performance Information* of the current Annual Report is provided below:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Visa Application Charge (\$'billion)</b>
July	0.202
August	0.224
September	0.201
October	0.204
November	0.210
December	0.200
January	0.193
February	0.179
March	0.206
April	0.111
May	0.115
June	0.112
<b>Total FY2019-20</b>	<b>2.157</b>

The requested 2020-21 Visa Application Charge revenue is embargoed until the 2020-21 Home Affairs Annual Report is tabled in the Parliament.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Select Committee COVID-19**

**QoN Number: CV19-409**

**Subject: Safe Haven Enterprise Visas and Temporary Protection Visas**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How have the numbers of people on Safe Have Enterprise Visas and Temporary Protection Visas changed since the advent of COVID-19?

a. Has the Department diverted any resources from SHEV / TPV processing to other tasks during COVID-19?

b. To help illustrate how processing of SHEV/TPVs has changed, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:

i. How many people in Australia currently hold a SHEV?

ii. How many new applications were submitted in the past month?

iii. How many applications are currently in progress?

iv. How many SHEVs have been granted in the past month?

v. The current average wait time for a SHEV to be processed

vi. The Average Staffing Level of the SHEV processing team.

vii. How many people in Australia currently hold a TPV?

viii. How many new applications were submitted in the past month?

ix. How many applications are currently in progress?

x. How many TPVs have been granted in the past month?

xi. The current average wait time for a TPV to be processed.

xii. The Average Staffing Level of the TPV processing team.

c. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data

**Answers:**

a. Yes. In order to best support the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force diverted available resources to support enterprise critical functions where necessary.

b.

i. As at 7 October 2020, there are 12,311 SHEV holders in Australia.

- ii. New SHEV applications include applicants already holding a temporary protection visa which continues to be in effect. There were 281 new SHEV applications lodged in August 2020.
- iii. As at 7 October 2020, there were 6,228 SHEV applications in progress, including applications by existing temporary protection visa holders whose visas continue to be in effect.
- iv. There were 50 SHEV applications granted in August 2020.
- v. Between 1 July 2019 and 31 August 2020, the average time for a SHEV to be processed was 1,219 days, which includes IMA applicants required to lodge by 1 October 2017.
- vi. Departmental resources are flexibly allocated to manage demand and on-hand levels for all visa types processed as well as non-processing activities for which a business unit may be responsible. The Department does not allocate or track average staffing levels (ASL) by particular visa categories. ASL for the business units (that would include processing of TPVs and SHEVs) for the period requested are shown in the table below:

Period	ASL
FY 2019-2020	428
FY 2020-21 (YTD Aug 20)	439

- vii. As at 7 October 2020, there are 5,488 TPV holders in Australia.
- viii. New TPV applications include applicants already holding a temporary protection visa which continues to be in effect. There were 71 new TPV applications lodged in August 2020.
- ix. As at 7 October 2020, there are 3,764 TPV applications in progress, including applications by existing temporary protection visa holders whose visas continue to be in effect.
- x. There were nine TPV applications granted in August 2020.
- xi. Between 1 July 2019 and 31 August 2020, the average time for a TPV to be processed was 1,398 days, which includes IMA applicants required to lodge by 1 October 2017.
- xii. Please refer to answer at (b)(vi) - these resources are deployed processing both SHEVs and TPVs.
- c. Nearest comparable data has been provided.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-410

**Subject: Offshore Processing Cohort**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has the processing of the Offshore Processing Cohort changed since the advent of COVID- 19?

a. Has the Department diverted any resources from Offshore Processing Cohort processing to other tasks during COVID-19?

b. To help illustrate how processing of Offshore Processing Cohort has changed, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:

i. Number of people in PNG?

ii. Number of people in Nauru?

iii. Number of people in Australia for medical reasons after being brought here by the Australian Government?

1. What is the residency arrangements for these individuals? i.e. community detention, APODs, detention centre

iv. Number of people in Australia for medical reasons after being brought to Australia via the Medevac legislation?

c. In total, how many people from the Offshore Processing Cohort have been approved for resettlement in the United States?

i. How many people have been resettled in the United States?

d. In total, how many people from the Offshore Processing Cohort have been approved for resettlement in a country other than the United States?

i. Please provide a breakdown by country and number of people that have been resettle.

e. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data.

**Answer:**

No.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-411

**Subject: Citizenship Processing**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has citizenship processing changed since the advent of COVID-19? To help illustrate this, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:

- a. The number of people who are waiting for citizenship and are:
  - i. Waiting for their citizenship application to be processed (but not including those people who are only waiting for their citizenship ceremony)
  - ii. Waiting for their citizenship ceremony
- b. The number of people who:
  - i. Became citizens via conferral in the past month
  - ii. Have become citizens via conferral year-to-date
  - iii. Acquired citizenship in the past month
  - iv. Acquired citizenship year-to-date
- c. The average wait time for an individual from application to citizenship ceremony.
- d. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data

**Answer:**

Through the COVID-19 period, applications for citizenship by conferral increased while citizenship test appointments were paused from March 2020, and in-person citizenship ceremonies were also paused from April 2020 as a result of the COVID restrictions.

During this period, staff who usually manage citizenship test appointments were redirected to conducting online citizenship ceremonies, processing more complex cases, or processing applications which did not require a citizenship test appointment.

As at September 2020, citizenship test appointments and in-person citizenship ceremonies had recommenced in all jurisdictions, except Victoria (where in-person services will recommence when COVID-19 restrictions allow). Wherever possible, appointment availability has been increased while maintaining COVIDSafe arrangements, to address on-hand applications and reduce processing times.

- a) The number of people who are waiting for citizenship and are:
- i. Waiting for their citizenship application to be processed (but not including those people who are only waiting for their citizenship ceremony)

<b>Number of Australian citizenship by conferral applications* on-hand (pre-decision) at end-of-month, from July 2019 to August 2020</b>	
<b>End-of-month</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
31-Jul-19	198,477
31-Aug-19	180,279
30-Sep-19	163,926
31-Oct-19	147,235
30-Nov-19	135,054
31-Dec-19	128,383
31-Jan-20	122,300
29-Feb-20	117,366
31-Mar-20	113,937
30-Apr-20	117,958
31-May-20	126,294
30-Jun-20	138,219
31-Jul-20	150,171
31-Aug-20	159,846

*\* includes counts of children under 16 years of age who were included on a responsible parent's application form.*

ii. Waiting for their citizenship ceremony

<b>Number of people waiting to attend an Australian citizenship ceremony at end-of-month, from July 2019 to August 2020</b>	
<b>End-of-month</b>	<b>No. of people</b>
31-Jul-19	71,963
31-Aug-19	88,773
30-Sep-19	87,462
31-Oct-19	89,491
30-Nov-19	88,334
31-Dec-19	97,245
31-Jan-20	85,492
29-Feb-20	88,572
31-Mar-20	86,294
30-Apr-20	96,398
31-May-20	82,658
30-Jun-20	60,053
31-Jul-20	35,060
31-Aug-20	22,403

- b) The number of people who:
- i. Became citizens via conferral in the past month.
    - In August 2020, 16,897 people were conferred Australian citizenship.
  - ii. Have become citizens via conferral year-to-date.
    - From 1 July 2020 to 31 August 2020, 44,928 people were conferred Australian citizenship.
  - iii. Acquired citizenship in the past month
    - In August 2020, 17,994 people acquired Australian citizenship (via conferral, descent, adoption and resumption pathways).
  - iv. Acquired citizenship year-to-date
    - From 1 July 2020 to 31 August 2020, 47,071 people acquired Australian citizenship (via conferral, descent, adoption and resumption pathways).
- c) In August 2020, the average time from lodgement of a conferral application to acquisition of citizenship at a citizenship ceremony was 490 days.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-412

**Subject: Costs of Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Have the costs of FMSC changed at all due to COVID-19? To help illustrate, please provide the costs that have been occurred in relation to the FMSC, during the following financial years:

- a. 2017-18
- b. 2018-19
- c. 2019-20
- d. 2020-21

If any of the costs in question 2 (IQ20-000565) are not reflected in this answer, please indicate what those costs are and why they are not reflected above

**Answer:**

The FMSC project costs have not changed due to COVID-19. The costs for the financial years requested are as follows:

Year	FMSC project costs	Costs not included in Questions on Notice 1163 and 1164	Reason
a) 2017-18	\$780,175	N/A	N/A
b) 2018-19	\$3,196,177	N/A	N/A
c) 2019-20	\$2,655,573	\$2,568,724	Questions on Notice 1163 and 1164 requested expense for the period 01 November 2018 to 31 December 2019. The additional expenditure relates to costs incurred after that period.

<b>d) 2020-21</b>	\$1,048,297	\$1,048,297	Questions on Notice 1163 and 1164 did not request any details relating to the 2020-21 financial year.
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-413

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Capability**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In October 2018, Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said the FMSC project, “will deliver

capability progressively and aims to achieve full capability by the end of 2024”.

a. Please specifically list the capabilities that have been delivered through the FMSC since

the project’s launch date?

b. And, again, please specifically list the capabilities that have been delivered through the

FMSC from January 2020 until now?

c. Were any capabilities delayed due to COVID-19? Why?

d. What capabilities will be delivered by the FMSC in 2020-21?

e. Will the FMSC achieve full capability by the end of 2024?

**Answer:**

a. The FMSC project has not been required to deliver any capabilities at this time.

b. The FMSC project is not required to deliver any capabilities in Financial Year 2020-21.

c. No.

d. The FMSC project is not required to deliver any capabilities in Financial Year 2020-21.

e. No. Work conducted by the FMSC project to date, including analysis of HOME AFFAIRS RFI07/18 Request for Information responses, has clarified the Department’s understanding of the potential options, cost and complexity of delivering next generation capability. The Department is taking a deliberate and methodical staged approach to the delivery of capability.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-414

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - further information**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Please provide the following information about the FMSC:

- a. What are the objectives of the FMSC?
- b. What are the key performance indicators of the FMSC?
- c. What is the timeline of the FMSC?
- d. Other than Home Affairs/ABF officials, what other agencies are involved in the FMSC project?
- e. Have any of a - d changed since the advent of COVID-19?

**Answer:**

- a. The Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) project has been established to identify possible options to provide the Australian Border Force (ABF) with the next generation of maritime surveillance capability to respond to current and emerging civil maritime threats to Australia's maritime environment.
- b. The key outcome of this stage of the project is to seek a Government investment decision informed by the conduct of risk reduction activities.
- c. The timeline for the FMSC is subject to ongoing review, internal approvals and Government decisions.
- d. The project has consulted widely with other organisations across Government, particularly with the Department of Defence.
- e. No.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-415

**Subject: Progress of the Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

To help the Committee understand how the progress of the FMSC has progressed over time,

and any impact COVID-19 may have on the momentum for FSMC, please provide:

a. the dates in which written briefs have been provided to the Minister for Home Affairs or

his office in relation to the FMSC.

b. the dates in which the Minister for Home Affairs has met with Government officials to

discuss the FMSC. Please specify which departments and agencies have been present in these meetings.

c. the number of companies have Home Affairs / Australian Border Force officials (or their

representatives) met with to discuss the FSMC?

d. the dates in which Home Affairs / Australian Border Force officials (or their representatives) met with companies to discuss the FMSC

**Answer:**

a. The Department of Home Affairs provided written briefs relating to the FMSC to the Minister for Home Affairs or his office on the following dates:

- i. 5 September 2018
- ii. 20 September 2018
- iii. 25 October 2018
- iv. 22 October 2019
- v. 4 December 2019
- vi. 14 January 2020
- vii. 5 February 2020
- viii. 11 February 2020
- ix. 17 February 2020
- x. 21 February 2020
- xi. 12 March 2020
- xii. 21 April 2020
- xiii. 11 June 2020
- xiv. 12 August 2020

- b. The Minister for Home Affairs met with government officials to discuss the FMSC on the following occasions:
  - i. 27 August 2019: Department of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force
  - ii. 16 January 2020: Department of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force
- c. On 5 November 2018, Home Affairs and Australian Border Force officials conducted an industry briefing in relation to the Request for Information (RFI) released via AusTender on 29 October 2018 (reference HOME AFFAIRS RFI07/18). This briefing drew attendees from 74 companies. Outside of the RFI, Home Affairs and Australian Border Force officials have met with 19 companies, at the request of those companies, to discuss the FMSC.
- d. Home Affairs and Australian Border Force officials met with companies on the following dates:
  - i. 21 September 2018
  - ii. 26 September 2018
  - iii. 27 September 2018
  - iv. 3 October 2018
  - v. 4 October 2018
  - vi. 8 October 2018
  - vii. 18 October 2018
  - viii. 19 October 2018
  - ix. 5 November 2018
  - x. 19 February 2019
  - xi. 18 June 2019
  - xii. 18 July 2019
  - xiii. 22 July 2019
  - xiv. 7 October 2019
  - xv. 11 October 2019
  - xvi. 28 October 2019
  - xvii. 6 November 2019
  - xviii. 14 November 2019
  - xix. 29 November 2019
  - xx. 6 February 2020
  - xxi. 7 May 2020
  - xxii. 6 August 2020
  - xxiii. 14 August 2020
  - xxiv. 17 August 2020

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-416

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Minister statement - Maritime security threats**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In October 2018, when talking about the FMSC, the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said

that, “Maritime security threats are likely to increase in complexity and severity such as renewed irregular migration and people trafficking, exploitation by transnational organised crime and its possible collaboration with extremist groups.”

- a. Can the Department please outline how these threats have evolved since October 2018, with a specific focus on changes since the advent of COVID-19?
- b. Does the Department continue to believe that maritime security threats are likely to increase in complexity and severity?

**Answer:**

- a. All maritime threats are projected to increase over time, with specific threats likely to occur at different times. Risk will be driven by increasing global population pressure, greater maritime activity, regional governance changes, climate change and increased capability and connectivity of threat actors. COVID-19 has created challenges which have followed these trends.
- b. Yes.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-417

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Minister statement - cutting edge technology**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In October 2018, when talking about the FMSC, the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said

that the FMSC, “will deliver new cutting edge technology to respond to current and emerging civil maritime threats to Australia.”

a. Can the Department please specify what “cutting edge technology” this project has delivered since October 2018?

i. Has any “cutting edge technology” that was due to be completed as part of the FMSC between March 2020 and now been delayed due to COVID-19? If so, please outline what has been delayed, the reasons for those delays, and what the impacts of these delays are on Northern Australia surveillance

b. Can the Department please specify what “cutting edge technology” this project is expected to deliver in 2020-21?

i. Does the Department foresee any “cutting edge technology” that was due to be completed in 2020-21 as part of the FMSC that might be delayed due to COVID- 19?

**Answer:**

a. Since October 2018, the FMSC project was not required to deliver, any new maritime surveillance capabilities.

b. The FMSC project is not required to deliver any new maritime surveillance capabilities in the 2020–21 Financial Year.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-418

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - upcoming contracts**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Can the Department please specify what contracts the Department expects to sign in 2020-21 to deliver start to “drones prowling Australia’s far flung ocean boundaries, underseas sensors monitoring shipping movements around our coastlines”?

a. Does the Department expect that COVID-19 will delay any of these contracts being signed?

i. If yes, please explain why.

**Answer:**

The Department does not expect to sign contracts in 2020-21 to deliver new maritime surveillance capabilities as part of the FMSC project.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-419

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - drone contracts**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Has the Department/ABF signed any contracts that would deliver “drones prowling Australia’s far flung ocean boundaries, underseas sensors monitoring shipping movements around our coastlines” since the project was launched in October 2018?

- a. When were these contracts signed?
- b. Were these contracts signed before COVID-19 began to impact Australia in January 2020?
- c. Has the advent of COVID-19 delayed any contract signing dates?

**Answer:**

- a. Please refer to the response to IQ20-000663.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. No.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-420

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - drones delivered**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Has the FSMC delivered any “drones prowling Australia’s far flung ocean boundaries, underseas sensors monitoring shipping movements around our coastlines” since the project was launched in October 2018?

a. Have any drones, undersea sensors that were due to be completed as part of the FMSC between March 2020 and now been delayed due to COVID-19? If so, please outline what has been delayed, the reasons for those delays, and what the impacts of these delays are on Northern Australia surveillance.

**Answer:**

No. The FMSC project was not required to deliver any new surveillance capabilities into service since March 2020. The project continues to develop business cases to support a Government investment decision.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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**QoN Number:** CV19-421

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Minister Statement -  
drones prowling**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In October 2018, when talking about the FMSC, the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said that the FMSC could see, “drones prowling Australia’s far flung ocean boundaries, underseas sensors monitoring shipping movements around our coastlines.”

- a. On what basis did the Minister for Home Affairs make this statement?
- b. Now that COVID-19 has impacted Australia, does the Department believe Australia’s needs to have “drones prowling Australia’s far flung ocean boundaries, underseas sensors monitoring shipping movements around our coastlines” have changed? If so, why?

**Answer:**

- a. The FMSC project was stood up to identify possible options to provide the ABF with a next generation surveillance capability. The project is considering various technologies including, but not limited to, drones and underwater sensors.
- b. No.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-422

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Minister Statement - prosperity, security and unity of the nation**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In October 2018, when talking about the FMSC, the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said,

“This project is critical to maintaining secure borders and will contribute directly to the prosperity, security and unity of the nation.”

- a. Can the Department please specify what has been achieved since October 2018 to deliver this project?
- b. Have any specific components of the FMSC that were due to be completed between March 2020 and now been delayed due to COVID-19? If so, please outline what has been delayed, the reasons for those delays, and what the impacts of these delays are on Northern Australia surveillance

**Answer:**

- a. Since October 2018, the FMSC project has completed the following activities:
  - i. Consideration of the HOME AFFAIRS RFI07/18 Request for Information (RFI) responses and preparation of a RFI Consideration Report.
  - ii. Ongoing iterative review and updates of the foundational project planning documents required to permit project progression.
  - iii. Comprehensive internal and external stakeholder engagement to confirm the Australian Border Force maritime surveillance capability need.
  - iv. Development of project documentation required to allow Government to consider options to deliver this capability.
- b. The FMSC project intended to conduct an industry briefing event in early 2020, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. The project is pursuing alternative engagement opportunities with industry.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-423

**Subject:** Changes to cost of FMSC over time

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Finally, to further illustrate how the costs of the FMSC have changed over time, and how they may have changed as a result of COVID-10:

- a. For the each of the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, please provide:
  - i. Budget allocated
  - ii. Contractor costs already committed to, total number of contractors expected to be employed, and the approximate number of hours contractors will work in relation to these costs
  - iii. Other costs already committed to (please provide a breakdown by categories)
  - iv. Projected contractor costs, total number of contractors expected to be employed, and the approximate number of hours contractors will work in relation to these costs
- b. The types of work contractors are expected to complete in relation to (ii) and (iv)

**Answer:**

The FMSC costs have not changed due to COVID-19. The budget for the 2020–21 financial year is outlined in the table below. The funding to be allocated beyond the 2020-21 financial year will be determined as part of the respective financial year external/internal budget process.

Question	FY 2020-21
a. i. Allocated budget	Funding allocated in 2020-21 for the FMSC project is approx. \$5.4 million with reviews undertaken annually
ii. Commitments (costs, contractors, hours)	For financial year 2020-21, the Department is in contract for a project team, working hours subject to demand to a maximum total cost of \$4.2 million. The size and makeup of the contracted project team is dependent on the project's requirements and as at 30 September 2020, there have been a maximum of 12 contractors in any month.

<b>iii. Commitments (other costs)</b>	There are nil other commitments. \$1.1 million is allocated for Risk Reduction Activities which has not been contractually committed
<b>iv. Projections (costs, contractors, hours)</b>	Currently, for financial year 2020-21, the Department is projecting a project team of 12 contractors for the FMSC project, working hours subject to demand to a maximum total cost of \$4.2m.
<b>b. Type of contractor work</b>	For the FMSC project, contractor work includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing development, review and update of foundational documents needed to promote successful delivery of future capability</li> <li>• Development of underpinning project Capability Definition Documents</li> <li>• Development of the range of documents required to approach the market through a Request(s) for Tender (pending Government decision)</li> <li>• Support to the Department of Home Affairs to engage with internal and external stakeholders to progress project development</li> </ul>

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRYWRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-424

**Subject: Contractor Activities - Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Further to 21, for each of the following financial years, please provide a list of the types of activities contractors undertook.

- a. 2017-18
- b. 2018-19
- c. 2019-20
- d. 2020-21

**Answer:**

In the following Financial Years, the FMSC project's contractors undertook the following work:

- a. FY2017-18:
  - i. Developed foundational planning documents needed to promote successful delivery of future capability in alignment with the Department's broader civil maritime security work
  - ii. Led by the Department of Home Affairs, engaged with internal and external stakeholders to progress project development and ensure agreement to the project's scope
- b. FY2018-19:
  - i. Reviewed and updated the foundational planning documents to confirm relevance and currency
  - ii. Developed the range of documents required to approach the market through HOME AFFAIRS RFI07/18 Request for Information (RFI)
  - iii. Considered responses to the RFI and prepared a RFI Consideration Report
  - iv. Continued to support the Department of Home Affairs to engage with internal and external stakeholders to progress project development
- c. FY2019-20
  - i. Continued to review and update the foundational planning documents to confirm relevance and currency
  - ii. Further developed underpinning Capability Definition Documents in support of a First Pass Business Case to Government
  - iii. Development of project documentation required to allow Government to consider options to deliver future capability

- iv. Continued to support the Department of Home Affairs to engage with internal and external stakeholders to progress project development
- d. FY2020-21
  - i. Continue to define capability requirements and develop options for investment approval leading to the acquisition, operation and sustainment of future capability, including:
    - Conduct of risk reduction activities
    - Refinement of business case documentation for future Government consideration
    - Development of a range of draft documents required to approach the market through a Request(s) for Tender
  - ii. Continue to support the Department of Home Affairs to engage with internal and external stakeholders to progress project development

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-425

**Subject: Contractor costs of Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

Have the contractor costs of FMSC changed at all due to COVID-19? To help illustrate, for each of the following financial years, please provide the contractor costs, total number of contractors employed, hours/tasks contractually required and the total hours worked by contractors in relation to the FMSC:

- a. 2017-18
- b. 2018-19
- c. 2019-20
- d. 2020-21

**Answer:**

The FMSC contractor costs have not changed due to COVID-19. The costs for the financial years requested are as follows:

	Contractor costs	Number of contractors	Contractual requirements: hours and tasks	Contract or hours worked
a) 2017-18	\$639,386.90	Maximum 12 contractors per month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contracts based on a standard 8-hour working day</li><li>• Contractors provided technical expertise and engaged with a range of internal and external stakeholders to develop project documentation</li></ul>	1,986

<b>b) 2018-19</b>	\$2,974,700.89	Maximum 13 contractors in any month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts based on a standard 8-hour working day</li> <li>• Contractors provided technical expertise and engaged with a range of internal and external stakeholders to develop project documentation</li> </ul>	15,652
<b>c) 2019-20</b>	\$2,351,412.39	Maximum 28 contractors in any month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts based on a standard 8-hour working day</li> <li>• Contractors provided technical expertise and engaged with a range of internal and external stakeholders to develop project documentation</li> </ul>	10,906
<b>d) 2020-21 YTD to 30 Sep 2020</b>	\$908,008	Maximum of 12 contractors in any month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts based on a standard 8-hour working day</li> <li>• Contractors provided technical expertise and engaged with a range of internal and external stakeholders to develop project documentation</li> </ul>	4,988

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-426

**Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC) - Questions on Notice 1163 and 1164**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

In relation to the FMSC, previously via Question on Notice No. 1163 & 1164, the Department has advised that:

- a. Qu 2 - A New Policy Proposal was not prepared in the lead up to the launch of the FMSC project in October 2018. Activities undertaken by the Department in the lead up to the launch were funded within the existing departmental budget. The total cost of the absorbed activities were \$2,318,694.
- b. Qu 3 - Departmental officials including project team members incurred \$11,153 of costs for travel to the announcement. The Department's Ministerial cost centre did not incur costs for travel to the Ministerial announcement.
- c. Qu 4 - From 1 November 2018 until 31 December 2019 (latest available figures as at 24 January 2020), the Department incurred costs of \$1,757,021 for the FMSC project.

Have any of these costs changed, since these answers were provided? If so, why have the costs changed? Have any of these changes been associated with re-scoping following changed assessments of security risks due to COVID-19? Please provide a detailed explanation of any changes.

**Answer:**

Questions a. and b. relate to historical activities and therefore have not changed. With regards to question c., the project has continued activity since 31 December 2019 and has incurred costs listed in the response to question IQ20-000657 and IQ20-000658. These costs did not change due to COVID-19.

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**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRYWRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-427

**Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on the Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)**

***Asked by:*** Kristina Keneally

***Question:***

Has the Department of Home Affairs considered the impact of COVID-19 to security risks in relation to Northern Australia surveillance, and specifically, to the future of the Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)?

***Answer:***

Yes.