

**Question on notice no. 33**

**Portfolio question number: 34**

**2017-18 Additional estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator Claire Moore:** asked the Department of Defence on 28 February 2018—

Senator MOORE: And the original cost of the plane?

Air Vice Marshal Roberts: The original cost of the plane I don't have at the moment, but I can take that on notice and let you know.

Air Chief Marshal Binskin: Just to clarify, the aircraft wasn't purchased as a special purpose aircraft. It was purchased as a tanker against a tanker requirement, and then the modifications done were additional so it can serve two missions here, seen as the most efficient way to be able to do it.

Senator MOORE: Could you table that?

Air Vice Marshal Roberts: We'll provide that. The tanker, the original aircraft cost was in the order of about \$320 million just for the pure aircraft, and then the modification for the air-to-air refuelling was on top of that.

**Answer —**

- The original cost of the two second hand ex-QANTAS A330s aircraft is approximately \$US 60m each.
- The Government Transport and Communications modification of one tanker will cost \$A187.7m