

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AIMS

TOPIC: Research Vessel Operations

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 46)

QUESTION No.: BI-22

Senator CARR: What about the operation of vessels? Will you see a reduction in days at sea?

Mr Gunn: One of the strong tenets of AIMS is that we believe in everything from the collection of data through to the development of process understanding and then advice to policymakers and industry. This end-to-end model of doing research is absolutely fundamental to the work we do. Again, when considering our adaptive strategy we fully expect to be able to run our vessels—two research vessels and our smaller fleet of runabouts—as we have previously. We have actually been oversubscribed in our time on vessels over the last three or four years that I know of and so we have been hiring days on other vessels. I fully expect us to wind back our chartering of external vessels over the next four years.

Senator CARR: By what level are you winding them back?

Mr Gunn: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

During the last two years the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) has chartered the following number of additional research vessel days from third parties:

- 2012-2013: 203 days
- 2013-2014: 135 days (to 19 June 2014)

At this time it is anticipated that the majority of the research associated with these charters will be moved back onto AIMS vessels. It is likely that some third party chartering will still occur where either highly specialised vessels are required and/or where it is necessary to deploy several vessels in parallel.