

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 237

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

1. What has been the total expenditure to date on the Solomon Islands deployment?
2. Does the AFP deployment in the Solomon Islands have a timeline? What methodology was used to develop this timeline?
3. How receptive have the local population been to Australian presence in the Solomon Islands?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. What has the total expenditure to date on the Solomon Islands deployment?

Total expenditure on the AFP contribution to the RAMSI mission between 2003/04 and 2012/13 was \$1,368m broken up as follows by year:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
RAMSI EXPENDITURE (\$'m)*	97	143	158	145	143	139	141	152	132	119	1,368

* The total expenditure shown includes actual expenditure between 2009/10 and 2012/13 and for earlier years it is based on the funding provided. Providing actual expenditure for the period between 2003/04 and 2008/09 is more difficult given the time elapsed, changes to the funding model and basis of recording and capturing costs. To attempt to go back and gather all the information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. Does the AFP deployment in the Solomon Islands have a timeline? What methodology was used to develop this timeline?

Yes, the AFP has a timeline for the deployment in the Solomon Islands. It is formalised in the *Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) Participating Police Force (PPF) 2013-2017 Drawdown Strategy* (Drawdown Strategy) and provides the strategic direction for the undertaking of capacity development assistance for the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). Methodology

The AFP drawdown is part of the whole of government transition based on an international framework of building post-conflict states. This framework is in line with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situation* which complements the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*. The OECD principles were endorsed by Australia at the Development Assistance Committee's high level forum on 3-4 April 2007.

The method used in determining the Drawdown Strategy for RAMSI included monitoring and evaluating data from the mission since its commencement in 2003.

Ongoing Milestones

The Drawdown Strategy anticipates that the implementation of the provisions of the *Police Act 2013* will be supported by an improved RSIPF corporate structure. This is expected to be an outcome of the PPF-RSIPF Corporate Support review which aims to be completed by 30 June 2014.

An environmental scan will be undertaken in 2017 to identify current and future crime threats likely to impact upon the national security interests of the Solomon Islands. This environmental scan will be critical to shaping and informing the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) – RAMSI policy decisions concerning the final stage of the drawdown.

3. How receptive have the local population been to Australian presence in the Solomon Islands?

The People's Survey is an independent annual survey that provides a unique insight into the opinions of Solomon Islanders on a wide range of issues, including business and employment, law and order, public accountability and access to services. Surveys and focus group discussions are undertaken in communities across Solomon Islands by trained local surveyors.

The survey is used across RAMSI partnership with the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to establish benchmarks and set targets and in a wide range of areas, including law and order, household economy and delivery of services. It is used in RAMSI's reporting to the Pacific Islands Forum and provides a mechanism for measuring the views of Solomon Islanders on progress against the jointly-agreed Solomon Islands Government-RAMSI partnership objectives. The survey also provides important statistics on areas that are not directly related to RAMSI's work, including health and education.

The key results for RAMSI included in the 2013 People's Survey are as follows:

- 86% of respondents supported the presence of RAMSI in Solomon Islands and 8% did not support RAMSI, which is consistent with the results from previous years.
- 48% said RAMSI's biggest achievement in Solomon Islands was bringing peace to the country and 40% said it was restoring law and order.

The complete Peoples Survey for 2013 and previous surveys can be accessed on the RAMSI website. <http://www.ramsi.org/solomon-islands/peoples-survey.html>