

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE14/041) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

Senator Carr (L&CA 110) asked:

Mr Pezzullo: General Hurley and I, as the two asset providers, have released those vessels for General Campbell's use, and they can be used for any range of purposes in order to execute the mission.

...

Senator KIM CARR: Mr Pezzullo, what Customs and Border Protection Service departmental assets are used, and what is the cost of deploying those assets?

Mr Pezzullo: For reasons that General Campbell spoke about earlier, I might just take the detail of that question on notice, because we have provided both resources to the general for his headquarters. He referred earlier - I think it may have been in response to Senator Singh - to what I would call headquarters resources. So, of the 51 personnel and other monies expended, a proportion of that will come from my agency. We will take that on notice. In terms of the maritime assets that the general has at his disposal, they are essentially the border protection assets that are provided by the Customs and Border Protection Service. The CDF provides his resources through Operation Resolute, as discussed earlier. The combination or the aggregation of those assets is the totality of what the general has available to him.

*Answer:*

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), contributes the following surveillance and response assets to Border Protection Command, the lead for Operation Sovereign Borders Detection, Interception and Transfer Task Group:

- 14 contracted aircraft: Ten Dash-8 surveillance aircraft, two Reims surveillance aircraft, and two helicopters; and
- Nine vessels: comprising one Cape Class vessel, six Bay Class vessels, and two contracted vessels (ACV Ocean Protector, the ACV Triton).

These ACBPS assets are not specifically tasked against Operation Sovereign Borders, but are utilised to generate maritime domain awareness against eight maritime threats: illegal activity in protected areas; marine pollution; prohibited imports and exports; illegal exploitation of natural resources; illegal maritime arrivals; compromises to bio-security; piracy, robbery and violence at sea; and maritime terrorism.

Consistent with this approach, ACBPS is funded to achieve targets in square nautical mile of aerial surveillance and the number of patrol days, and it is not possible to disaggregate costs in any accurate and meaningful way against each threat.