

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/069) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 26) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The reason I am asking about the four-month time frame is because last night on the 7.30 Report the minister said:

... that project was a four-month project. I was advised by the department. It's a four-month project to do what was required with both the CCTV, the infrastructure of the fence and the lighting ...

He is saying that he was informed by the department that it was going to take four months. Does it really take four months to build a fence?

Mr Bowles: You are simplifying it to being just a fence. This is a large complex establishment. It is not just a normal pool fence. This is quite a complex arrangement and it does take time to do that. Let me just stress though—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want clarification about the four-month time frame. You will take that on notice?

Mr Bowles: Yes. I can take on notice why it takes that long—

Answer:

The perimeter fence that is being installed at Manus Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) has been specifically designed for the OPC. The construction of this type of fence is complex and requires specialised people and equipment.