

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/304) PROGRAMME – 2.1 and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

From Budget Paper 2 page 159: Why is infrastructure being upgraded when there are no boats arriving and no one is being processed on Christmas Island?

Noting that Aqua and Lilac compounds on Christmas Island have been earmarked for closure, why is this upgrade taking place when these centres are being closed?

Why is the government spending over \$20 million on facilities that are unlikely to be used?

Answer:

Christmas Island facilities have been operating at very high tempo, often in surge capacity, for an extended period. Some facilities require repair and refurbishment due to excessive wear and tear and general maintenance requirements. In addition, some improvements are being made to facilities to provide for education arrangements and improved amenity for existing and potential detainees.