

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/369) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Was anyone at OSB consulted by the CDF prior to his decision to make a declaration under the Work Health and Safety Act, removing safety duties from Australian personnel working as part of Operation Sovereign Borders?

- a. When were you first contacted about this declaration?
- b. Did you provide feedback to the Chief of the Defence Force about his decision to make the declaration?

Answer:

While no formal request was received, Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB) Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) staff were involved in consultation from the inception of the JATF, with some staff members being involved from an earlier date as part of their pre-JATF duties.

Meetings involved OSB JATF staff were held on:

- 29 October 2013;
- 22 November 2013; and
- 27 November 2013.

The declaration was also discussed at periodic meetings of senior Commonwealth department legal officials on several occasions.

OSB JATF did not provide feedback directly to the Chief of the Defence Force, but feedback was provided to the Department of Defence and members of the Australian Defence Force during consultation.