

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/376) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

On page 7 of the Joint Review into the incursion into Indonesia that was released under FOI (the Review), it states that the review is not an in-depth inquiry. Are you satisfied that this review is sufficient to understand all the events and issues which led to the incursions to prevent any future incursions into Indonesian waters?

Answer:

Yes.

The Review was completed in accordance with the comprehensive terms of reference covering a broad range of procedural, training and systemic issues. The Review involved a full analysis of all patrols conducted during the relevant period to identify those patrols that resulted in incursions into Indonesian waters by Australian vessels, as well as the causal factors.

The Review made five recommendations, which were accepted by the Chief Executive Officer, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and the Chief of the Defence Force. In addition to those interim measures applied immediately after the incursions, a number of measures have been implemented in accordance with the recommendations to prevent a recurrence; including revised procedures and training.

Two recommendations provided for further inquiries into the conduct of personnel at sea, and in headquarter units to identify any lapses in professional conduct. The majority of these inquiries have concluded and appropriate administrative action has been taken in accordance with relevant Australian Defence Force and ACPBS administrative requirements.