

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/602) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Whish-Wilson (Written) asked:

Was the Ocean Protector involved in the search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370?

If not why not?

Would it have been quicker for the Ocean Protector to reach the identified search zone than it was for Ocean Shield?

Is the Ocean Protector built for and equipped for these types of searches?

Answer:

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority did not request the assistance of Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Vessel (ACV) *Ocean Protector* in the search for flight MH370.

To preserve operational security, Border Protection Command does not disclose the disposition of its assets.

ACV *Ocean Protector* is a commercial vessel leased to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for maritime security tasks.