

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/035) - Vietnamese Fishing Boats - Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 78) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: which furthermore quotes the company's website, which is very generous of them:

... the Dragon Industries Asia website ... confirms that the Customs and Border Protection Department is a client and that it has ... tasked the company to deliver 10 "alternative vessels" from "preliminary design".

The profile says:

"Recent projects include: Australian Customs and Border Protection 10 x Alternative transportation vessels—

we do not want to use that word either, I suppose, do we—

Supply, project management and delivery."

"This project was delivered to exceptionally tight deadlines, with final delivery of all vessels within 18 weeks of project inauguration," ...

It even gives prices. Is that correct? Is the report correct?

Mr Pezzullo: As we have previously disclosed when we talked about the lifeboats that were procured by the Customs and Border Protection Service, I think ministers have allowed a discussion around procurement. We certainly did that, you might recall, in relation to the so-called lifeboats. Subject to any guidance from the minister to the alternative, I think discussions around procurement and acquisition would be within the terms of the claim of public interest immunity that has been previously raised. Certainly no answers will be forthcoming, as far as I am concerned, unless the minister chooses to approve otherwise on operational matters.

Senator KIM CARR: I would ask you to take on notice whether or not this report is an accurate reflection of the procurement—

Mr Pezzullo: We will take on notice the issues in relation to procurement

Answer:

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service does not comment on operational matters.