

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/065) - Telemovie - Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Macdonald, Ian (L&CA 37) asked:

CHAIR: Is it being moderated? A factual thing would show that the people smugglers kept an eye on what the Greens were saying and what the Labor government were saying. I am sure, if that happened—if it were done factually—you would be opening yourself up to allegations of political—

Mr Pezzullo: As far as I am concerned—and I am sure the brief to the production company is very strict on this, and if it is in any way ambiguous I will reinforce it—it will not deal with the Australian political system at all.

CHAIR: But a movie like that cannot give a factual picture unless it clearly shows that the people smugglers were watching the words that were being said in this parliament by different people.

Mr Pezzullo: I will take that on notice. I do not wish to be found to have been in error, but as far as I am concerned it will not discuss or allude to—

Answer:

The telemovie is set entirely offshore and does not deal with the Australian political debate or domestic media commentary on the issue of asylum seekers and illegal boat arrivals.

The telemovie will serve to reinforce and complement existing public information campaign activities being delivered as part of the Australian Government's anti-people smuggling communication campaign throughout the Middle East. It will depict the campaign's key messages, including the risks and dangers of travelling to Australia illegally by boat, the financial implications, the deception and lies of people smugglers, and the impact on families left behind.