

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/181) - Vietnamese Boats - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

"Regarding this report:

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/vietnamese-boats-unseaworthy-government-sources-say-20150311-1411bi.html>

- How many Vietnamese-built boats have been commissioned for use in Australia's turn-back operations? What is the cost?
 - How many have been built and delivered to Australia?
 - Have any been utilised in any operation?
 - What is your response to reports that government official in Darwin has been reported as stating that: "The first boat the shipyard launched sunk, and it had to be retrieved with a crane," "The materials are a really poor quality as well as the craftsmanship. They are completely unsafe and not a passenger boat." Did the first boat sink?
 - In light of the safety concerns with the boats delivered, has the Department reconsidered its contract with the Vietnamese boat builders? Have you sent any boats back to be re-built?
 - Why are these vessels intended to be used instead of the previously-used orange lifeboats? Is it a cost-savings measure?
- "

Answer:

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