

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/139) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Explain how these transfers are taking place and how they comply with Australia's responsibilities under Law of the Sea Convention.

- a. Are they returned to Australia?
- b. If so, how are they returned to Australia?
- c. Who assists in this endeavour?
- d. How much does this cost?
- e. If not, who then 'owns' the lifeboats once they reach Indonesian shores?
- f. Are they Australian flagged vessels?
- g. If so, what is the legal justification for the lifeboats to enter Indonesian waters considering that vessels carrying Asylum Seekers are not considered as innocent passage?

Answer:

To date, the Government has not sought the return of any lifeboats.