

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/144) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What are the daily costs involved with the deployment of ADF resources for OSB? Specifically, what is the cost of having two Major Fleet Units in the area on standby for OSB?

- a. What Customs and Border Protection Department assets are used?
- b. What are the costs involved with deploying these assets for OSB?

*Answer:*

Questions regarding ADF resources are a matter for the Department of Defence.

- a) The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), contributes the following surveillance and response assets to Border Protection Command, the lead for Operation Sovereign Borders Detection, Interception and Transfer Task Group:
  - 14 contracted aircraft: comprising 10 Dash-8 surveillance aircraft, two Reims surveillance aircraft, and two helicopters; and
  - 11 vessels: comprising two Cape Class vessels, six Bay Class vessels, ACV *Thaiyak* and two contracted vessels.
- b) These ACBPS assets are not specifically tasked in support of Operation Sovereign Borders, but are utilised to generate maritime domain awareness and response against eight maritime threats: illegal activity in protected areas; marine pollution; prohibited imports and exports; illegal exploitation of natural resources; illegal maritime arrivals; compromises to biosecurity; piracy, robbery and violence at sea; and maritime terrorism.

Consistent with this approach, ACBPS is funded to conduct surveillance of, and response in Australia's maritime domain to counter the eight maritime threats. It is not possible to disaggregate costs in any accurate and meaningful way against each threat.