

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/121) - Drug Trafficking - Interdiction of illicit drugs and pre-cursor chemicals - Programme 1.2: Border Management

Senator Xenophon, Nick (L&CA) written:

Following questions put on notice at previous Estimates hearings, I asked about Border Force's responsibility in relation to interdiction of illicit drugs and pre-cursor chemicals coming into Australia. I was advised the Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio is responsible for detecting illicit drugs at the border and preventing their import and export to and from Australia.

Can you be more specific in regards to Border Force's responsibility rather than the portfolio? Does Border Force carry out the entire portfolio's responsibility?

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio (which includes ABF) is responsible for policy, regulatory, corporate support and intelligence services.

The ABF is the Department's operational enforcement arm responsible for investigations, compliance and immigration detention operations, across our air and seaports and land and maritime domains. Specifically the ABF undertakes the following activities:

- Facilitates the lawful passage of people and goods.
- Manages onshore detention, removals and support to regional processing arrangements
- Detects and interdicts risks to Australia identified offshore.
- Investigates and undertakes compliance and enforcement activities in relation to illicit goods and immigration malpractice.