

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 106

Senator Birmingham asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

1. Please detail all resources committed by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, as well as known contributions from other agencies, towards the return to Australia in January 2012 of three protesters who boarded the Japanese vessel *Shonan Maru No 2*.
2. What was the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's total expenditure on this exercise?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Vessel *Ocean Protector* was tasked to divert from its fisheries enforcement patrol to retrieve the three activists and transfer them to the mainland. This operation lasted for nine days. The Agency fulfilled its role using existing Customs and Border Protection staff who are dedicated on an ongoing basis to maritime surveillance and response activities. Customs and Border Protection does not have details about other agencies contributions. With regard to the second aspect of the question, please refer to the responses to Estimates question on notice number 105 and Senate question on notice 1555.
2. The retrieval had direct additional costs to Customs and Border Protection of \$155,000. This included costs for fuel, berthage and support services. This is in addition to the normal operating costs of the ACV *Ocean Protector* during the nine-day period, which were approximately \$906,000. Due to the retrieval, nine days were lost to Customs and Border Protection in their fisheries enforcement patrol in the Southern Ocean.