

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(AE12/0372) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

Wickham Point: Can the department confirm reports that three contracts totalling around \$193 million have been let in relation to the facilities at Wickham Point. Can you also confirm that this figure does not include running costs? Can the department confirm the Minister's estimates that annual operating costs would be \$70 million? How much is the contract for Serco to provide detention services at the Wickham facility?

Answer:

As at 13 February 2012, the 3 contracts let in relation to Wickham Point facility totalled around \$217 million with the contract periods expiring in 2014.

One of the contracts does include some of the centre's running costs.

At the time the 2011-12 Budget was being developed, the operational expenditure for Wickham Point over an 8 month period was estimated to be \$72.50 million. This estimate included the lease of land and buildings and all other normal operational costs including various service providers and DIAC staff. The estimate did not include any capital costs.

It is important to note that any such estimate will be impacted by dynamic factors such as the number of clients at the facility during the year, the mix of the client caseload, specific client needs, processing times and any change to operational requirements that may be necessary.

A Variation to the Detention Services Contract to cover operation of the expanded Wickham Point facility is currently being negotiated for all three stages of the facility.

Until the variation has been finalised, we are unable to provide advice regarding the value of the Serco contract for detention services at Wickham Point.