

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/020) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 27) asked:

Senator LUDWIG: I see you are being as fulsome giving us information about Operation Sovereign Borders as you are here as well. I got an answer to a question on notice SE 13/0192. There are 43 cars apparently on Nauru. As I look at a map of Nauru and—correct me if I am wrong—there are about 30 kilometres of roads there from the immigration department. Why do you need 43 cars? Perhaps you could take some of it on notice but it is interesting to note that in respect of vehicles on Christmas Island you are able to tell me how many kilometres they have travelled and what officer might command the car. In respect of Nauru, you do not seem to be able to tell me very much at all. The information I am seeking is: who are the departmental officers who are assigned each of those 43 cars? What is the policy concerning the use of those cars? What is the cost of maintaining those vehicles? If the vehicles need to be repaired, are they repaired on Nauru or are they shipped back home?

These are simple questions that your answer SE13/0192 really failed to provide any information. You have got 43 cars. What are they doing? Who has got them? On 30 kilometres of road.

Mr Bowles: On 0192 I cannot see 43 cars mentioned. Is that on there?

Senator LUDWIG: I am happy for you to check your record as well, but—

Mr Bowles: I can check those numbers. Nauru is a small island, as you rightly say. But we also have a number of operations in there. There are a number of different centres on Nauru and it is just a function of the activities. Some of those vehicles probably will be buses and the like, to move transferees around to different locations. It is not necessarily a function of having only 30 kilometres of road. It is the job that it is there to do. I can take on notice if I can get any more detail about fixing cars, but it could be a combination of bringing a technician in to do certain things at certain times if they break down. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The 43 vehicles referred to in the question on notice SE 13/0192 are required to support the provision of services and facilitate staff and transferee movements. There is no public transport in Nauru and most staff (including service provider staff) live at least 16kms from their place of work. The round trip between the three centres is 14kms.

Four vehicles are used by Departmental staff to enable staff to travel between their accommodation and the three Offshore Processing Centres (OPCs) on Nauru. The remaining vehicles are used by service providers and include specialised vehicles to

support the operation of the OPCs in addition to passenger vehicles for the movement of staff. Specialised vehicles include:

- Refrigerated vehicles for catering and transport of food
- Ambulances
- Warehousing vehicles
- Effluent trucks
- Water trucks
- A fuel truck
- Buses for staff and transferee transport

Comcover policy for the listed vehicles allows for use by all Departmental staff and service provider staff provided that they have the Department's approval to do so, that the vehicle is not being used in contravention of any host country law, is correctly registered and insured, the driver holds a current drivers licence for the correct country, and vehicle usage is recorded in log books.

For the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014, service, maintenance and repair costs were approximately \$11,000 across the full fleet of Department owned vehicles on Nauru. All repairs are undertaken on the island with parts freighted in where required.