

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/27)

Senator Whish-Wilson (L&CA 36) asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. The Airbus A319 was available, but was any consideration that you are aware of given to using, for example, an Orion or other types of surveillance aircraft?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I do not have an answer to that question. I was not part of that consideration.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: It is just that they asked us to ask you that question when I asked it of them last night. They said that Customs would be able to answer that question.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I can take that on notice. I do not have the answer to that.

Answer:

During the planning process, a number of options were considered. The A319 was determined to be the most suitable aerial asset available and deemed appropriate to satisfy the objectives of the Government's monitoring mission. Considerations included the range it can achieve in this remote area, the experience of the crew with conditions in the Southern Ocean and the ability to land in Antarctic airfields in the event of an emergency.