

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/29)

Senator MacDonald (L&CA 37-8) asked:

#### **Question**

CHAIR: Senator Whish-Wilson, that is your time. I am going to take a minute of my time by indicating that the question Senator Whish-Wilson asks is a question I have been asking for the last six years. I had something to do with getting the predecessor of that ship to Australian waters and armed to look after our Southern Ocean. It is an icebreaker, as Senator Whish-Wilson indicates. But rarely in the last six years of the government supported by the Greens was it ever in the Southern Ocean. When I raised this nobody from the Greens ever supported me on that issue. After my long introduction, my question is: in looking at Senator Whish-Wilson's questions, could you, without spending too much of the department's valuable time, indicate where the vessel has been since, say, 1 January 2007—and not just that ship but its predecessor as well—to help Senator Whish-Wilson in his consideration of the matter as well? I share his concern that it should be doing what it was supposed to be doing but, for the reason the minister has mentioned, it has had to be reallocated.

Mr Pezzullo: I will take that on notice.

#### **Answer:**

The general locations for ACVs *Oceanic Viking* and *Ocean Protector* by financial year are outlined below.

#### **Financial Year 2006-2007**

ACV *Oceanic Viking* undertook five (5) patrols in the Southern Ocean and two (2) deployments in northern waters to increase illegal foreign fishing vessel apprehensions.

#### **Financial Year 2007-2008**

ACV *Oceanic Viking* undertook four (4) patrols in the Southern Ocean and three (3) deployments in northern waters. ACV *Oceanic Viking* also undertook a 30 day patrol off Australia's west coast, an 18 day patrol of Australia's east coast, an 8 day patrol in the Great Australian Bight, and operated in support of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum held in Sydney for a total of 29 days.

#### **Financial Year 2008-2009**

ACV *Oceanic Viking* undertook five (5) patrols in the Southern Ocean. All assigned patrol days for this financial year were undertaken in the Southern Ocean.

#### **Financial Year 2009-2010**

ACV *Oceanic Viking* undertook three (3) patrols in the Southern Ocean, in addition to undertaking patrols in Australia's northern waters.

**Financial Year 2010-2011**

ACV *Ocean Protector* undertook two (2) patrols in the Southern Ocean. ACV *Ocean Protector* also undertook patrols in Australia's northern waters as it was required to facilitate long haul transportation of illegal maritime arrivals from the point of interception to other Australian Government authority's on-shore. Additionally ACV *Ocean Protector* was involved in Operation *Bergonia* off the south Queensland coast. Patrols were also undertaken in other priority areas through the Australian maritime domain. Between 12 August and 1 November, ACV *Ocean Protector* was unavailable to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) as the vessel was assigned to the Department of Defence for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

**Financial Year 2011-2012**

ACV *Ocean Protector* undertook two (2) patrols in the Southern Ocean. ACV *Ocean Protector* was diverted to Australia's northern waters to transport illegal maritime arrivals. Between 5 March and 4 June, ACV *Ocean Protector* was unavailable to the ACBPS as the vessel was assigned to the Department of Defence for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

**Financial Year 2012-2013**

ACV *Ocean Protector* undertook all of its patrol days in Australia's northern waters.

**Financial Year 2013-2014**

As at 28 February 2014 ACV *Ocean Protector* has undertaken all of its patrol days in Australia's northern waters.