

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/053) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (L&CA 80) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Minister, I was wondering if you could help me here. I understood there was a statement in the coalition's policy for a regional deterrence framework to combat people smuggling that there would be an allocation made to boost search and rescue responses in Indonesia. Where would I find that allocation?

Mr Bowles: The \$40.9 million figure that you refer to relates to immigration. There will be a series of other allocations that fit underneath that broader policy document across other agencies like AFP, Customs and Border Protection and the like. Without knowing specifically whether they are that is effectively what —

Senator KIM CARR: But it is not this portfolio?

Mr Bowles: Some of it will be this portfolio. Now that I have customs—

Senator KIM CARR: Can you indicate to me what aspects of that money is appropriated to—

Mr Bowles: I can take that on notice because it goes across the multiple agencies under the joint agency task force but a large part of it will be us, Customs and Border Protection, and then there will be the other agencies.

Answer:

The \$40.9m identified in the MYEFO is a package for immigration-related initiatives that contribute to the Regional Deterrence Framework to Combat People Smuggling. None of the \$40.9 million figure will be spent on search and rescue responses in Indonesia.