

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/132) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What are the details of the Governments discussion with Cambodia regarding the Bali Process on people-smuggling and trafficking?

Will Cambodia also receive customs and border security support from Australia?

What will this support entail?

Will it include another donation of retired Bay Class vessels and associated training?

Has this been included in the MYEFO?

If so, have adjustments been made to the budget?

If not, where will the funds be pulled from to enable this deal?

Answer:

Cambodia is an important bilateral and regional partner on people smuggling issues and a strong partner in immigration cooperation. Australia highly values its cooperation with Cambodia under the Bali Process and the success we have had in joint operations conducted under our 2002 bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in Combatting Irregular Migration, People Smuggling and Trafficking. It would not be appropriate to disclose the details of ongoing bilateral discussions on these matters.

Australia provides a range of border management capacity building support to Cambodia, including English language, document examination, facial image comparison and refugee status determination training and the modest provision of technical expertise and equipment.

Any disposal or potential gifting of the remaining Bay Class vessels is a matter for the Australian Government.