

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-316)

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Does Operation Sovereign Borders command have complete records of where all of the Australian vessels engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders are at all times?

- a. If we're aware of where our ships are at all times, why weren't these incursions detected by headquarters when they occurred?**
- b. What was the sequence of events that lead to each incursion?**

Answer:

No. Assets assigned to Border Protection Command generally provide operational updates on a periodic basis with positional information. As operational circumstances dictate, more frequent updates are provided to operational headquarters.

- a. As noted in the Joint Review of Positioning of Vessels Engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders – Executive Summary, on each occasion the incursion was inadvertent, in that each arose from incorrect calculation of the boundaries of Indonesian waters rather than a deliberate action of navigational error.
- b. The answer to this question contains information pertaining to on-water and other operation activities.