

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE14-393)**

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

### **Question**

Is the Australian Customs Vessel (ACV) *Ocean Protector* or similar ship under the command of Border Protection Command?

1. In what sense is it a custom vessel?
2. How many days of customs related work has it done since Sept 7 2013?
3. How many days has the vessel spend at sea since Sept 7 2013?
4. Is ACV designed for work in the Southern Ocean? How was it purchased or leased? By which departments was it financed?

*Answer:*

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Vessel (ACV) *Ocean Protector* is under the command of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS). When undertaking operations, the operational control of the vessel is primarily assigned to Border Protection Command.

1. The ACV *Ocean Protector* is under the command of the ACBPS, which operates the vessel. As such, the vessel is an Australian Customs and Border Protection Vessel (i.e. ACV).
2. Between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, ACV *Ocean Protector* completed 178 sea days for Australian Customs and Border Protection Service purposes.
3. Between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, ACV *Ocean Protector* completed 178 sea days.
4. Yes, the vessel is appropriately ice-strengthened for Southern Ocean Operations. ACV *Ocean Protector* was leased as a result of global open tender; its lease costs were borne by ACBPS. This included a Budget allocation for vessel modification and costs to allow the vessel to undertake ACBPS operations.