

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

**Question No. 180**

**Senator Joyce has asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:**

What is the total cost of Australia's maritime surveillance efforts to detect and apprehend asylum seekers coming to Australia by boat?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Australia's maritime surveillance efforts are coordinated by Border Protection Command (BPC) which utilises assets from Defence and Customs and Border Protection Service. It is not possible to attribute the cost of operational activities to a specific threat as Border Protection Command undertakes operations against all maritime security threats concurrently. While planning of operations may have a particular focus, such as detecting unauthorised maritime arrivals, surveillance and response assets are multitasked and take action against other maritime security threats, for example illegal foreign fishing vessel activity.