

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

Question No. 31

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

What are the other components (not outlined at the hearing) of the \$146.3 million in savings over four years in the forward estimates period?

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

In addition to the savings measures identified at the hearing which related to the Illegal Foreign Fishing measures (\$72.7m over the forward estimates) and the Southern Ocean Patrol Program (\$29.3m over the forward estimates), the other components of the \$146.3m in savings relate to:

- redirecting compliance assurance activity and intervention to the higher risks in the cargo process to achieve a more efficient and effective assurance monitoring of regulated goods, cargo processes and revenue risks. This measure will deliver efficiencies of \$8.1m over the forward estimates;
- improved efficiency in aircraft search operations through an increased deployment of both explosives and drug detector dogs resulting in efficiencies of \$6.1m across the forward estimates;
- a risk based approach to aerial surveillance of areas south of major threat areas that have been assessed as a low risk. The risk based approach, ensuring aerial surveillance coverage of higher risk areas is maintained, will result in efficiencies of \$16.2m across the forward estimates; and
- a targeted reduction in capital investments of \$13.8m over the forward estimates will refocus Customs and Border Protection's capital expenditure on the most critical investments to support the Government's key priorities.

* Please note: variances between individual measure totals and the total over the forward estimates is due to Commonwealth wide rounding conventions