

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

**Question No. 35**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:**

After the close of tender, please provide the government's estimate of the cost of the replacement of the vessels with the eight Cape class vessels.

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

The tender evaluations are expected to be completed by 31 December 2010, and this will be followed by a period of negotiation with one or more of the preferred tenderers regarding the exact and final specifications before a contract is signed. The final cost will therefore be unknown until a contract is signed. Providing this estimate before the contract is signed is likely to compromise the tendering process.