

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(73) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash (L&CA 71-73) asked:

In relation to the Curtin detention facility, can the department advise when the works commenced on stage 3, who authorised their commencement, who undertakes these works, and the estimate costs of these works.

*Answer:*

Preparatory work to clear vegetation from Stage 2 and the central core began on 21 May 2010. As part of this activity, to allow a contingency for future expansion and a sufficient fire break, clearing was extended to the area marked as a provision for a possible Stage 3.

The clearing was undertaken by Spotless Services which is contracted to the Department of Defence and was done with DIAC's agreement. The total cost of the clearing works was \$116,552.

Prior to the start of construction, Complete Site Services (CSS) began initial site preparation works on 18 August 2010 by removing top soil and compacting the base across the entire site.

CSS advised that construction work such as trenching and the laying of pipe and conduit started in Stage 2 in the first week of September and was extended into Stage 3 as a contingency. The pipes and conduit in Stage 3 have not been connected and does not contain cabling.

These works were authorised by the Department as a prudent, cost effective contingency measure.

As these works were undertaken concurrently, it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the costs for Stage 3, however as equipment and labour was already on-site, the additional cost for the contingency work was marginal.