

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

**Question No. 138**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

Maintenance of Border Protection Command vessels

- 1) Provide the maintenance schedule of all vessels used for Border Protection Command over the past 12 months.
- 2) List all of the maintenance problems with each vessel used by Border Protection Command over the past 12 months and list any repairs that were required.
- 3) Over the past 12 months where has each Border Protection Command vessel been stationed and for how long?
- 4) Where are the current fleet of vessels located? Also list those vessels that are undergoing maintenance and repairs.
- 5) Where is maintenance and repairs conducted for Border Protection Command vessels?
- 6) Who conducts the maintenance and repairs and how much does it cost per year? (list past four financial years)

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

***1. Provide the maintenance schedule of all vessels used for Border Protection Command over the past 12 months.***

Vessels are provided to Border Protection Command for operation deployment from Customs and Border Protection and Navy. Vessels assigned to Border Protection Command do not perform major maintenance during these periods. Maintenance of Customs and Border Protection and Navy vessels is conducted while vessels are under the control of their parent organisation.

The maintenance schedule of Customs and Border Protection vessels from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012 is detailed below. Customs and Border Protection vessels are under the control of Maritime Operations Support Division rather than Border Protection Command during the following maintenance periods:

- ACV *Dame Roma Mitchell* (Annual docking)\*: 8 September to 4 October 2011
- ACV *Ashmore Guardian* (General maintenance)\*\*: 26 September to 24 October 2011
- ACV *Botany Bay* (Intermediate docking)\*\*\*: 7 October to 4 November 2011

- *ACV Holdfast Bay* (Intermediate docking): 14 November to 13 December 2011
- *AVC Triton* (General maintenance): 21 November to 30 November 2011
- *ACV Ocean Protector* (Modifications and preventative maintenance)\*\*\*\*: 12 December to 24 December 2011
- *ACV Corio Bay* (Intermediate docking): 20 January to 16 February 2012
- *ACV Ashmore Guardian* (General maintenance): 13 February to 16 February 2012
- *ACV Ocean Protector* (Modifications and preventative maintenance): 15 February to 29 February 2012
- *ACV Roebuck Bay* (Annual docking): 21 February to 19 March 2012
- *ACV Triton* (General maintenance): 1 March to 7 March 2012
- *ACV Hervey Bay* (Intermediate docking): 10 April to 10 May 2012
- *ACV Arnhem Bay* (Intermediate docking): 11 June to 6 July 2012
- *ACV Storm Bay* (Intermediate docking): 13 June to 9 July 2012
- *ACV Triton* (Annual docking): 21 June to 30 June 2012
- *ACV Dame Roma Mitchell* (Intermediate docking): 20 July to 16 August 2012
- *ACV Ocean Protector* (Annual docking): 19 July to 5 September 2012
- *ACV Triton* (General maintenance): 20 September to 17 October 2012
- *ACV Ashmore Guardian* (Annual docking): 1 October 2012 to 6 October 2012

\*Annual docking is a survey requirement for the vessel to be inspected by a recognised organisation and includes the conditioning of the engines and gear boxes, service and certification of life saving appliances and documentation of other survey requirements.

\*\* General Maintenance is undertaken on the contracted vessels (*ACV Triton*, *ACV Ocean Protector* and *ACV Ashmore Guardian*) and includes the maintenance of engines, generators and other engineering functions and any modifications as necessary.

\*\*\* Intermediate Docking occurs every 2 ½ years. A comprehensive survey inspection and documentation process is undertaken in addition to maintenance undertaken during annual docking.

\*\*\*\*Preventative maintenance occurs as required and covers all aspects of vessel maintenance. The purpose of this maintenance is to reduce the probability of breakdowns and lost patrol days.

The maintenance schedule of Navy vessels used by Border Protection Command including days available for maintenance is detailed below. Navy vessels are under the control of Navy, rather than Border Protection Command, during the following maintenance periods:

- *HMAS Larrakia* (General Maintenance)\*: 26 September to 3 October 2011

- HMAS *Wollongong* (Extended docking period)\*\*: 26 September to 19 December 2011
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 3 October to 10 October 2011
- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 10 October to 17 October 2011
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 10 October to 24 October 2011
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 10 October to 24 October 2011
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 17 October to 31 October 2011
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 24 October to 31 October 2011
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 31 October to 7 November 2011
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 7 November to 21 November 2011
- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 7 November to 21 November 2011
- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 14 November to 28 November 2011
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 21 November to 28 November 2011
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 21 November to 5 December 2011
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 21 November to 5 December 2011
- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 28 November to 12 December 2011
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 28 November to 12 December 2011
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 5 December to 12 December 2011
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 5 December to 19 December 2011
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 12 December to 26 December 2011
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 19 December 2011 to 02 January 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 19 December 2011 to 9 January 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 26 December 2011 to 9 January 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 26 December 2011 to 9 January 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 2 January to 9 January 2012

- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 2 January to 16 January 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 9 January to 23 January 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 9 January to 23 January 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 9 January to 23 January 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 9 January to 30 January 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (5 yearly docking)\*\*: 9 January to 19 March 2012
- HMAS *Broome* (Engine Change Out)\*\*\*: 16 January to 27 February 2012
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 23 January to 6 February 2012
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 30 January to 6 February 2012
- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 30 January to 6 February 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 30 January to 13 February 2012
- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 30 January to 13 February 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 6 February to 13 February 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 8 February to 27 February 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 20 February to 27 February 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 20 February to 5 March 2012
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 21 February to 5 March 2012
- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 5 February to 12 March 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 27 February to 12 March 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 5 March to 19 March 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 5 March to 19 March 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 12 March to 19 March 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 12 March to 2 April 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 13 March to 9 April 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 19 March to 2 April 2012

- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 20 March to 2 April 2012
- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 26 March to 16 April 2012
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 26 March to 2 April 2012
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 2 April to 23 April 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 9 April to 16 April 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 9 April to 7 May 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 16 April to 23 April 2012
- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 16 April to 7 May 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 23 April to 30 April 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 23 April to 7 May 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 30 April to 14 May 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (5 Yearly Docking): 30 April to 11 June 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 2 May to 14 May 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 7 May to 28 May 2012
- HMAS *Maryborough* (General Maintenance): 7 May to 4 June 2012
- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 14 May to 28 May 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (Engine Change Out): 14 May to 25 June 2012
- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 21 May to 4 June 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 28 May to 18 June 2012
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 4 June to 18 June 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 4 June to 18 June 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 18 June to 2 July 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 18 June to 9 July 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (Painting Docking)\*\*\*\*: 18 June to 23 July 2012

- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 25 June to 9 July 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 25 June to 19 July 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 2 July to 30 July 2012
- HMAS *Maryborough* (5 Yearly Docking): 2 July to 27 August 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 9 July to 23 July 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 16 July to 30 July 2012
- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 16 July to 6 August 2012
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 23 July to 13 August 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 30 July to 13 August 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 6 August to 27 August 2012
- HMAS *Pirie* (Engine Change Out): 6 August to 10 September 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 8 August to 20 August 2012
- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 13 August to 27 August 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 14 August to 17 September 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 20 August to 10 September 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 20 August to 10 September 2012
- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 20 August to 10 September 2012
- HMAS *Bundaberg* (General Maintenance): 3 September to 24 September 2012
- HMAS *Wollongong* (General Maintenance): 10 September to 1 October 2012
- HMAS *Maitland* (General Maintenance): 10 September to 8 October 2012
- HMAS *Albany* (General Maintenance): 24 September to 15 October 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (General Maintenance): 1 October to 8 October 2012
- HMAS *Childers* (General Maintenance): 1 October to 22 October 2012
- HMAS *Bathurst* (General Maintenance): 1 October to 22 October 2012
- HMAS *Glenelg* (5 Yearly Docking): 8 October to 17 December 2012

- HMAS *Launceston* (General Maintenance): 8 October to 29 October 2012
- HMAS *Ararat* (General Maintenance): 15 October to 29 October 2012
- HMAS *Broome* (General Maintenance): 15 October to 29 November 2012
- HMAS *Armidale* (General Maintenance): 15 October to 5 November 2012
- HMAS *Larrakia* (General Maintenance): 22 October to 12 November 2012
- HMAS *Pirie* (General Maintenance): 29 October to 12 November 2012

\*General Maintenance is conducted during maintenance availability periods and includes basic (organic) level maintenance, depot level maintenance and defect rectification.

\*\*Extended Docking Period includes 2 ½ yearly and/or 5 yearly docking which includes basic (organic) level maintenance, extensive depot level maintenance and defect rectification. Approved modifications are also undertaken during these periods.

\*\*\*Engine Change Out is usually scheduled during the 2 ½ or 5 yearly docking periods. If conducted outside this period general maintenance is also undertaken as required.

\*\*\*\*Painting Docking is usually scheduled during the 2 ½ or 5 yearly docking periods and involves painting the vessel and all types of maintenance as required.

**2. List all of the maintenance problems with each vessel used by Border Protection Command over the past 12 months and list any repairs that were required.**

Customs and Border Protection and Defence assets undergoing repair or maintenance are not assigned to BPC, and remain under the control of their parent agency for the duration of the maintenance period. However, the following table summarises the maintenance defects which occurred in relation to Customs and Border Protection *Bay* Class vessels from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012. A detailed listing of the 1651 maintenance defects is available on request.

	Defect Priority				Total
	1	2	3	4	
<i>ACV Arnhem Bay</i>	6	56	81	83	226
<i>ACV Botany Bay</i>	2	37	33	92	164
<i>ACV Corio Bay</i>	4	37	36	134	211
<i>ACV Dame Roma Mitchell</i>	6	60	36	89	191
<i>ACV Hervey Bay</i>	9	42	75	46	172
<i>ACV Holdfast Bay</i>	2	57	226	34	319
<i>ACV Roebuck Bay</i>	3	35	81	66	185
<i>ACV Storm Bay</i>	5	45	46	87	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1651</b>

Priority 1 defects require the vessel's immediate return to port for either safety or operational reasons; for example, if the GMPSS (safety radio) breaks or a main engine requires repair. Many of these defects are raised during a docking period where preventative maintenance uncovers work that must be conducted prior to a vessel returning to sea.

Priority 2 defects can be fixed at the vessels next port.

Priority 3 defects can be fixed within the vessel's next two ports. These are often routine and may be because the spare item is not carried on board.

Priority 4 defects are minor and may include tasks such as replacing a filter.

Overall, 21 patrol days were lost to defects from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012 whilst 2504 were achieved.

Maintenance of contract vessels ACV *Ashmore Guardian*, ACV *Ocean Protector* and ACV *Triton* is provided as part of each contract. Routine repairs or maintenance undertaken is not reported to Customs and Border Protection. No unscheduled, significant repairs or maintenance have been required in the last twelve months to 31 October 2012.

The following table summarises the maintenance conducted in relation to Defence Armidale Class Patrol Boats (ACPB) from 1 January 2012 to 30 November 2012.

<b>ACPB</b>	<b>P1 OPS</b>	<b>P1 SAF</b>	<b>P2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Albany	19	3	42	<b>64</b>
Ararat	7	3	60	<b>70</b>
Armidale	18	9	60	<b>87</b>
Bathurst	19	9	57	<b>85</b>
Broome	4	1	66	<b>71</b>
Bundaberg	16	6	74	<b>96</b>
Childers	11	8	57	<b>76</b>
Glenelg	8	3	44	<b>55</b>
Larrakia	18	4	48	<b>70</b>
Launceston	16	4	73	<b>93</b>
Maitland	17	6	57	<b>80</b>
Maryborough	10	3	60	<b>73</b>
Pirie	27	5	48	<b>80</b>
Wollongong	12	7	67	<b>86</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>1086</b>

P1 OPS - defect that requires rectification next time in port but not requiring ship to proceed into port.

P1 SAF - defect that requires ship to proceed to port to rectify.

P2 - defect which is not as severe as the first two; however, would require rectification near term.

**3. *Over the past 12 months where has each Border Protection Command vessel been stationed and for how long?***

For operational reasons, BPC cannot comment on the location of Defence and Customs and Border Protection assets assigned to BPC. To do so would compromise the tactical patrol posture.

**4. Where are the current fleet of vessels located? Also list those vessels that are undergoing maintenance and repairs.**

The current fleet of Customs and Border Protection vessels do not have individual 'home ports' and operate across northern Australian approaches based on operational tasking by Border Protection Command. As such, each of their locations may change dependent on operational demand. No vessels were currently undergoing maintenance as at 31 October 2012.

BPC cannot comment on the location of Defence assets assigned to BPC for operational reasons.

**5. Where is the maintenance and repairs conducted for Border Protection Command vessels?**

Customs and Border Protection and Defence assets undergoing significant repair or maintenance are not assigned to BPC. However, major maintenance and repairs for Customs and Border Protection vessels are usually conducted in Darwin and Cairns, but this depends on where they are operating. Planned maintenance for Armidale Class Patrol Boats are usually undertaken in Cairns or Darwin, however in 2012 Sydney and Henderson WA have been used, as well as Singapore during routine ship visits for emergent defects.

**6. Who conducts the maintenance and repairs and how much does it cost per year? (list past four financial years)**

Maintenance of Customs and Border Protection *Bay* Class vessels is carried out principally by DMS Maritime, the prime contractor for all *Bay* Class maintenance. Unplanned rectification work may be sourced locally. The cost of maintenance over the past four financial years is in the following table; this includes planned servicing and defect rectification.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Cost of maintenance and servicing</b>
2008/09	\$ 8 996 128
2009/10	\$ 8 220 514
2010/11	\$ 8 407 265
2011/12	\$ 7 562 511

Maintenance for contracted vessels ACV *Ashmore Guardian*, ACV *Ocean Protector* and ACV *Triton*, provided as part of their respective contracts, is not identified as a separate cost under the contract.

Maintenance and repairs of Defence assets are conducted by DMS Maritime Pty Ltd under an 'In Service Support Contract'. This is a fixed price contract for delivery of integrated support that incorporates engineering and maintenance support, logistics and supply support, configuration management and training.

Combined costs for the last 4 years were:

2009	\$30.1m
2010	\$26.6m
2011	\$28.5m
2012	\$28.2m