

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0124) PROGRAMME – ACBPS

Senator Rhiannon (Written) asked:

Will DIBP ensure that the two patrol boats Prime Minister Abbott has given Sri Lanka will NOT be used for whale watching cruises? a. How will you do this?

Answer:

The Australian Government is gifting the two patrol boats to support border protection, maritime safety and counter people smuggling operations in the Sri Lankan region.

The operational limitations and suitability of the patrol boats will be discussed with appropriate Sri Lankan authorities, including the Sri Lankan Navy, during the gifting program.