

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AMSA 01

Division/Agency: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Topic: Search and Rescue

Hansard Page: 86 (21/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—What is the most expensive air search that AusSAR has had to pay for in the last 12 months?

Mr Baird—I would have to take that on notice.

Senator O'BRIEN—If you could, that would be good.

Answer:

AMSA advises that the most expensive air search in the past 12 months to 21 May 2007 was \$418,850 in relation to an aerial search for two occupants of an overdue ski boat in September 2006, which was under the overall coordination of the Queensland Police.

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Hansard Pages: 86-87 (21/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—If you could, that would be good. What is the average cost for air searches for an incident?

Mr Baird—The average cost of an incident?

Senator O'BRIEN—For any specific air services to search.

CHAIR—An hourly rate?

Senator O'BRIEN—No. If you engage aircraft for a search, do you get a total bill for a search?

Senator Johnston—That will differ extraordinarily broadly from air search to air search.

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, and I asked for the average.

Senator Johnston—An average would not be terribly indicative, I would have thought. An hourly rate would be much better, wouldn't it?

Senator O'BRIEN—I am happy to have that as well. Thanks for the suggestion.

Senator Johnston—I am here to help.

Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you. You are from Western Australia and you are here to help.

Senator Johnston—Yes.

Mr Baird—We can provide that for you.

Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you.

Answer:

During 2005-2006, there were 559 incidents requiring AMSA to coordinate search activity and AMSA received \$6.2 million in administered appropriation for responding to search and rescue incidents (mainly the cost of hiring aircraft). This gives an indicative average of \$11,090 per incident requiring a search. The median cost of a search was \$4,600 in 2005-2006 (ie half the searches cost less than \$4,600 and half the searches cost more than \$4,600).

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Question: AMSA 03

Division/Agency: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Topic: Search and Rescue

Hansard Page: 88 (21/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Do you know how many air searches AusSAR has commissioned in the last 12 months?

Mr Baird—I will get those figures back for you, Senator.

Answer:

There were 594 searches conducted in the 12 months to 21 May 2007 that included the tasking of aircraft by AMSA.