

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Consideration of Budget Estimates November 2003

Question: RST 01

Topic: Conversations with Mr Max Moore-Wilton

Hansard Page: 38

Output: 3.1

Senator Kirk asked:

(Contact between Mr Davidson and Mr Moore-Wilton in August-September 2001)
Would you be able to recall the nature of those conversations?"

Answer:

Mr Davidson advises that he recalls two conversations with Mr Moore-Wilton, one in the morning of 29 August 2001 and one in the afternoon of 4 September 2001. Mr Davidson's evidence to the Senate Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident about the nature of these conversations is at pages CMI1881 and 1882 of the Hansard.

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

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Question: PR 13

Topic: Dr Feeney Paper

Hansard Page: 39

Output: 3.1

Senator Kirk asked:

Could you perhaps give the Committee some details as to the nature of the paper that he prepared at the time I am referring to – that is, August-September 2001.

Answer:

The paper was in relation to search and rescue arrangements between Australia and Indonesia.

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Question: PR 14

Topic: Dr Feeney Paper

Hansard Page: 39

Output: 3.1

Senator Kirk asked:

When you say 'the industry', who sought clarification in relation to this matter?

Answer:

Shipping Australia Limited and Australian Shipowners Association.

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Question: PR 15

Topic: Dr Feeney Paper

Hansard Page: 39

Output: 3.1

Senator Kirk asked:

I understand that he established, or it was proposed that there be established, a cross-portfolio Suspected Illegal Entry Vessels (SIEV) emergency group. Is that correct? My interest was in the nature of that group and what it was asked to do?

Answer:

No. A DOTARS review looked into arrangements for vessels where AMSA had been notified of a distress situation and on vessels not in distress but understood to be involved in people smuggling.

Where AMSA has coordination responsibility for SIEV it requires policies and procedures to ensure that appropriate advice is provided to the Master that addresses Australia's national interest while meeting our obligations under international laws and conventions. Central to these policies and procedures is a source of cross-portfolio, high level and definitive direction to AMSA concerning the form and content of the advice to be provided to the Master. This advice is to be provided by the Cross-Portfolio SIEV Emergency Group (CPSEG).

The issue of whether rescues are allowed to disembark in Australia is one for the Australian Government, advised by the CPSEG, and is not an AMSA responsibility.

The CPSEG is comprised of:

- Deputy Secretary PM&C
- Deputy Secretary DOTARS
- FAS International PM&C
- FAS Social Policy PM&C
- FAS Border Control and Compliance DIMA
- FAS International Organisations and Legal DFAT
- Director-General Coastwatch
- Deputy Secretary Strategy Defence
- Head Strategic Command Division Australian Defence Force HQ

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And Observers:

- AFP
- Attorney-General's