File number: CJATF/OUT/2014/642

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs | Department of the Senate
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dunstone

HISTORICAL ILLEGAL ENTRY VESSEL ARRIVAL INFORMATION

I previously provided to the Committee, on 7 March 2014, correspondence in which tabulated information on historical illegal entry vessel arrivals for the period 18 September to 7 November 2013 was included. I also undertook to continually review information of public interest for release where it is no longer operationally sensitive.

As part of that ongoing review, I am now able to table a compilation of illegal entry vessel arrivals transferred to Australian Government authorities, during the period 18 September 2013 to 19 December 2013.

I respectfully request the attachment be tabled.

Yours sincerely

Angus J. Campbell DSC, AM
Lieutenant General
Commander
Joint Agency Task Force
Operation Sovereign Borders

14 April 2014

Enclosure:
1. Illegal Entry Vessel Arrivals Table – 18 Sept 13 to 19 Dec 13

Illegal Entry Vessel Arrivals - 18 September to 19 December 2013

Vessel	Detection		Interception and Boarding			Transfer to Australian Government Authorities	IMA and Crew Numbers
	Approximate Time / Date	Approximate Location	Time / Date	Approximate Location	Asset		
1	0751 AEST 21-Sep-13	30 nautical miles east of Christmas Island	1424 AEST 22-Sep-13	3 nautical miles east of Christmas Island	HMAS Maitland	On 22 September 2013, all 33 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island.	31 IMA 2 Crew
2	1157 AEST 22-Sep-13	50 nautical miles west of Ashmore Islands	1521 AEST 22-Sep-13	20 nautical miles north-west of Ashmore Islands	ACV Triton	On 24 September 2013, all 21 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities in Darwin	18 IMA 3 Crew
3	24-Sep-13	Arrived at Boigu Island	0700 AEST 25-Sep-13	The passengers on the vessel were detained by Australian Government authorities on Boigu Island	ACV Botany Bay	On 26 September 2013, all 7 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Horn Island.	7 IMA
4	2035 AEST 24-Sep-13	145 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	1018 AEST 26-Sep-13	36 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	HMAS Maryborough HMAS Maitland (assisting)	On 26 September 2013, all 72 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	70 IMA 2 Crew
5	1437 AEST 29-Sep-13	70 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	2049 AEST 29-Sep-13	20 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	HMAS Armidale HMAS Maryborough (assisting)	On 30 September 2013, all 82 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	79 IMA 3 Crew
6	0937 AEDT 9-Oct-13	90 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	1738 AEDT 9-Oct-13	50 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	HMAS Warramunga	On 12 October 2013, all 55 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	53 IMA 2 Crew
7	1520 AEDT 10-Oct-13	3 nautical miles north west of West Island, Cocos Keeling Island	1550 AEDT 10-Oct-13	1 nautical mile west of West Island, Cocos Keeling Island	ACBPS 640	On 11 October 2013, all 79 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Cocos Keeling Islands.	79 IMA
8	1404 AEDT 15-Oct-13	34 nautical miles north west of Bathurst Island	1430 AEDT 15-Oct-13	93 nautical miles north west of Darwin	HMAS Pirie	On 21 October 2013, all 42 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	40 IMA 2 Crew
9	1333 AEDT 15-Oct-13	64 nautical miles north north east of Christmas Island	1505 AEDT 15-Oct-13	55 nautical miles north-north-east of Christmas Island	HMAS Warramunga	On 17 October 2013, all 42 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	41 IMA 1 Crew
10	2019 AEDT 18-Oct-13	108 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	1830 AEDT 19-Oct-13	50 nautical miles north of Christmas Island	HMAS Bathurst HMAS Ballarat (assisting)	On 20 October 2013, all 128 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities at Christmas Island	126 IMA 2 Crew
11	0933 AEDT 7-Nov-13	approximately 128nm north east of Christmas Island	1158 AEDT 7-Nov-13	126nm north east of Christmas Island	HMAS Ballarat	On 10 November 2013 all 63 personnel were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	61 IMA 2 Crew

Illegal Entry Vessel Arrivals - 18 September to 19 December 2013

Vessel	Detection		Interception and Boarding			Transfer to Australian Government Authorities	IMA and Crew Numbers
	Approximate Time / Date	Approximate Location	Time / Date	Approximate Location	Asset		
12	1807 AEDT 10-Nov-13	71nm north-north-west of Cape Fourcroy (Tiwi Is)	0111 AEDT 11-Nov-13	36nm north of Cape Fourcroy	ACV Cape Saint George	On 11 November 2013 all 68 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies in Darwin	66 IMA 2 Crew
13	1230 AEDT 10-Nov-13	45nm north east of Christmas Island	1457 AEDT 10-Nov-13	38nm north-east of Christmas Island	HMAS Ballarat	On 11 November 2013 all 40 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	36 IMA 4 Crew
14	1500 AEDT 15-Nov-13	20 nm north of Christmas Island	1737 AEDT 15-Nov-13	10nm north of Christmas Island	HMAS Launceston	On 17 November all 39 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	35 IMA 4 Crew
15	1013 AEDT 27-Nov-13	15nm north west of Christmas Island	1123 AEDT 27-Nov-13	11nm north-north west of Christmas Island	ACV Ocean Protector	On 27 November all 11 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	9 IMA 2 Crew
16	1636 AEDT 1-Dec-13	55nm north-west of Christmas Island	2126 AEDT 1-Dec-13	32nm north of Christmas Island	HMAS Broome	On 3 December 2013 all 31 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	29 IMA 2 Crew
17	1554 AEDT 4-Dec-13	63nm north-north-east of Christmas Island	2153 AEDT 4-Dec-13	23nm north-east of Christmas Island	HMAS Larrakia	On 6 December 2013 all 72 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	70 IMA 2 Crew
18	1442 AEDT 5-Dec-13	Greta Beach, Christmas Island	1442 AEDT 5-Dec-13	Greta Beach Christmas Island	National Parks & Wildlife, ACV Ocean Protector, HMAS Larrakia & HMAS Stuart assisting	On 6 December 2013 all 27 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	25 IMA 2 Crew
19	0936 AEDT 5-Dec-13	17nm north-north-east of Christmas Island	1135 AEDT 5-Dec-13	12nm North of Christmas Island	HMAS Broome	On 6 December 2013 all 63 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	61 IMA 2 Crew
20	1459 AEDT 8-Dec-13	45nm East-south-east of Ashmore Island	1919 AEDT 8-Dec-13	32nm south-east of Ashmore Island	ACV Roebuck Bay	On 11 December 2013 All 5 people from the vessel were transferred to Australian Government authorities in Darwin	3 IMA 2 Crew
21	1756 AEDT 10-Dec-13	69nm north-north-west of Christmas Island	0815 AEDT 11-Dec-13	21nm north west of Christmas Island	HMAS Stuart	14 December 2013 all 71 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	69 IMA 2 Crew
22	1556 AEDT 13-Dec-13	135nm North of Christmas Island	1452 AEDT 14-Dec-13	22nm North of Christmas Island	HMAS Larrakia	On 19 December 2013 all 100 people were transferred into the care of Australian Government agencies at Christmas Island	98 IMA 2 Crew

Incident number	Date (based on UTC Day)	Incident Report
2013/6282	18 Sep 2013	AMSA received advice from Border Protection Command (BPC) that a maritime venture departing Indonesia might have unspecified damage. AMSA was able to confirm by ascertaining the location of the on-board satellite phone that the vessel was on a beach in Java. BASARNAS accepted coordination.
6336	21 Sep 2013	WA Police advised they had received satellite phone calls from a vessel approximately 120 nautical miles north-east of Christmas Island. AMSA subsequently received a direct call stating that there was a sick baby on board. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. A RAN vessel was tasked and located the vessel approximately 30 nautical miles north-east of Christmas Island. A boarding party advised that no assistance was required. The search and rescue (SAR) action was cancelled and the RAN vessel was released. (*This incident is vessel 1 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
6394	24 Sep 2013	BPC advised of a vessel possibly in distress and experiencing mechanical difficulty approximately 20 nautical miles south of Java. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping. A RAAF P-3 Orion aircraft and an Australian warship were tasked to proceed to the position. The Orion located the vessel high in the water with engines and bilge pump running, moving at 3 knots and showing no obvious signs of distress. AMSA cancelled the SAR action. On 26 September, the vessel reported that it required assistance. A RAN vessel was tasked by BPC to investigate, and located the vessel 30 nautical miles from Christmas Island. The RAN vessel confirmed that the vessel had been disabled (fuel lines cut) then embarked the people. (*This incident is vessel 4 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
6421	25 Sep 2013	AMSA received a call from an informant in Indonesia who advised that his friend was on a boat with 55 persons aboard, in need of assistance. Subsequently, AMSA received a number of calls and text messages from an INMARSAT phone aboard the vessel, reported to be 180 nautical miles north-north-west of Christmas Island. The vessel reported steering difficulties, holes and engine difficulties. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested Defence assistance. A merchant ship to assist, and an Orion aircraft and a RAN vessel were tasked to respond. When the merchant ship arrived it reported that the vessel was stable in the water. The RAN vessel boarded the vessel, assessed it to be unseaworthy and embarked the people. The crew and passengers were subsequently transferred to Indonesian authorities at sea.

Incident number	Date (based on UTC Day)	Incident Report
6443	26 Sep 2013	AMSA received a phone call from a person on board a vessel, claiming that the vessel was disabled. The vessel requested assistance and was reported to be approximately 500 metres off the reef at Ashmore Island. AMSA was able to obtain a GPS position for the satellite phone on board and established that the vessel's actual position was approximately five nautical miles off the Island of Roti, Indonesia. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and diverted a merchant ship to the position before transferring coordination to BASARNAS as the incident was occurring within Indonesian territorial waters. After arriving in the area the merchant ship was not able to locate a vessel in distress, and AMSA released it from tasking. The vessel continued to call AMSA, advising that it was making way but was taking on water. AMSA then tasked an Australian Customs Vessel (ACV) to the location. The ACV arrived on scene after dark and observed people on board bailing water by hand. Two tenders were launched to assist and, whilst en route, the vessel capsized. The ACV rescued all the people and confirmed that no people were missing.
6452 Agrabinta	27 Sep 2013	AMSA was advised that a vessel had broken down and was without food or water on a voyage from Indonesia to Christmas Island. AMSA managed to make contact with the vessel and was advised it was broken down and sinking approximately 25 nautical miles south of Java, Indonesia. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. A Customs Dash-8 and an Orion aircraft were tasked to respond; three merchant ships diverted to assist. Subsequent positions of the vessel appeared to be close inshore within Indonesian territorial waters. Later reports were received indicating that the vessel had run aground on the south coast of Java.
6506	29 Sep 2013	The WA Police call centre received a call from a male on board a vessel stating that the engine had stopped and that the vessel was taking on water. The vessel was reported to be approximately 32 nautical miles north of Christmas Island. AMSA issued a distress broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. A RAN vessel which was in the vicinity deployed a boarding party to the vessel and established that the vessel was not taking on water and was not in distress. AMSA cancelled the SAR action and released the RAN vessel from SAR tasking. (*This incident is vessel 5 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
6701	9 Oct 2013	AMSA was advised by an informant in Indonesia of a vessel that had reportedly broken down 130 nautical miles north of Christmas Island. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. Two RAN vessels were tasked to respond, and a merchant ship also diverted. The people were embarked by a RAN vessel owing to safety concerns. (*This incident is vessel 6 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate*

Incident number	Date (based on UTC Day)	Incident Report
		Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp)
6840	15 Oct 2013	Numerous emergency '000' calls were received from a vessel approximately 80 nautical miles north of Christmas Island. The vessel was reported to be experiencing bad weather, with damage and engine difficulties. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. Two merchant ships diverted, and a RAN vessel was tasked to respond. A Dash 8 was also tasked to respond from Christmas Island. The Dash 8 subsequently located the vessel 64 nautical miles north of Christmas Island making way at eight knots. The RAN vessel boarded the vessel and owing to safety concerns the people were embarked. (*This incident is vessel 8 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
6952	19 Oct 2013	AMSA was advised of a vessel that had been sighted by a surveillance aircraft disabled and adrift approximately 50 nautical miles north of Christmas Island. Two RAN vessels were tasked to respond. An Orion aircraft and a merchant ship were also tasked to respond. One of the RAN vessels arrived on scene and, having deployed a boarding party to the vessel, advised that the vessel was overloaded, taking on water, and had unserviceable engines. All the people were then embarked by the RAN vessels. (*This incident is vessel 9 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
7022	23 Oct 2013	Headquarters Northern Command advised AMSA of concern for the safety of a vessel that had been reported 98 nautical miles north of Christmas Island. A Dash 8 aircraft located the vessel and expressed concern due to its erratic behaviour. AMSA accepted coordination of the incident and tasked a RAN vessel to respond. When the RAN vessel arrived on scene, the vessel was assessed as being seaworthy. The boarding party reported that the occupants wanted to continue undisturbed to their destination. The SAR action was cancelled. The vessel then steered North towards Indonesia under its own Command with BASARNAS informed.
7376	7 Nov 2013	AMSA received a call from an informant in Indonesia reporting that four of his friends were on a boat bound for Christmas Island from Jakarta that had stopped working. AMSA issued a broadcast to shipping and requested military assistance. A RAN vessel and an ACV were tasked to respond. A satellite phone position was obtained showing that the vessel was 150 nautical miles northeast of Christmas Island. A subsequent satellite phone position showed the vessel was making way at 5 knots in a south-easterly direction. The RAN vessel located and boarded the vessel, effecting repairs. The SAR action was

Incident number	Date (based on UTC Day)	Incident Report
		cancelled. The vessel subsequently became disabled and was boarded by a RAN vessel. The vessel was determined to be unseaworthy and the people were embarked by an ACV. (*This incident is vessel 11 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
7438	10 Nov 2013	AMSA received several calls from WA Police in relation to a vessel approaching Christmas Island that reported broken down with an engine on fire. The callers stated they were 30 and 60 kilometres from Christmas Island but no further details were provided. A Customs Dash-8 aircraft was tasked inflight to investigate and located a vessel making way 46 nautical miles northeast of Christmas Island. There were no signs of distress. The aircraft searched an area of 1908 square nautical miles but there were neither signs of another vessel nor signs of distress. A RAN vessel arrived and confirmed that the vessel had made the calls. The RAN vessel reported the vessel's engines had been sabotaged. After embarking the people, the RAN vessel advised that the master of the vessel was reported to have jumped overboard, while clutching a barrel. A search for the missing man was commenced using an Orion and a RAN vessel. AMSA was later advised that the embarked people had been questioned and the claims that the master had jumped overboard were not true. The master was one of the embarked Indonesian crew members. (*This incident is vessel 13 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
7516	13 Nov 2013	The Australian Embassy received notification from Indonesian Police that a vessel was in distress in the vicinity of a small village, south of Java. AMSA passed the information to BASARNAS, who confirmed that they were coordinating a response. AMSA was later advised that all persons had been accounted for.
7566	15 Nov 2013	An unidentified caller using an Indonesian mobile phone contacted AMSA requesting assistance however the line was very broken and only the words "completely damaged" were understandable. Telstra advised that the telephone number used the Christmas Island telephone network. BPC also advised that they were responding to a contact of interest in the vicinity of Christmas Island. The boarding party of a RAN vessel on AMSA's request found a passenger on board admitting to the telephone call. All the people were embarked. (*This incident is vessel 14 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at*

Incident number	Date (based on UTC Day)	Incident Report
		www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp)
7932	10 Dec 2013	AMSA received a satellite telephone call from a person aboard a vessel reporting they were requiring assistance. The caller gave a GPS position placing the vessel 73 nautical miles north-north-west of Christmas Island. A RAN vessel and an Orion aircraft were tasked to respond and a broadcast was issued to shipping in the area. The RAN vessel boarded the vessel upon which the SAR action was cancelled and coordination was transferred to BPC. (*This incident is vessel 21 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
8030	4 Dec 2013	AMSA was advised by BPC that a vessel probably north of Christmas Island was experiencing unspecified problems. AMSA requested a phone trace from the INMARSAT National Operations Centre in London. They provided a position for the vessel and this correlated to a vessel that BPC had under surveillance. The SAR action was cancelled and coordination was transferred to BPC. (*This incident is vessel 17 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*)
8049

Greta Beach | 5 Dec 2013 | AMSA assumed coordination of an incident after reports that a vessel had sunk in the vicinity of Greta Beach at Christmas Island. The people on board made it on to the island but became separated. A Customs Dash-8 aircraft, an ACV, multiple military and police assets were initially tasked to respond until confirmation was received from passengers interviewed that everyone had been counted. AMSA retained coordination of the incident as a number of people were sighted on the beach and cliffs and their recovery was hindered by difficult terrain. A search party reached the four people and assisted them to hospital for medical assessments. The Dash-8 conducted a five square nautical mile search and reported several sightings of abandoned lifejackets and vessel debris but no sightings of any persons were made. (*This incident is vessel 18 in the tabulated historical illegal entry vessel arrival data, enclosed in CJATF tabled letter to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of 14 Apr 14. That letter can be found under the "Historical OSB data" heading of the OSB website at www.customs.gov.au/site/operation-sovereign-borders.asp*) |