

**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING GROUP ON THE BOAT TRAGEDY AT
CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

24 January 2011 (12:30-1:30pm) By teleconference

Standing Group Members

The Hon Chris Bowen, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Senator Nick Xenophon
Senator Steve Fielding
The Hon Tony Crook MP

In addition

The Hon Robert McClelland, Attorney-General and Acting Minister for Home Affairs
(Substitute Chair)

Apologies

The Hon Brendan O'Connor, Minister for Home Affairs (Chair)
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

Officials

Mr Duncan Lewis AO, National Security Adviser
Ms Glenys Beauchamp, Secretary, Department of Regional Australia
Ms Jackie Wilson, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship
Mr Michael Carmody AO, CEO Customs and Border Protection Service
Deputy Commissioner Andrew Colvin, Australian Federal Police
Ms Sachi Wimmer, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister & Cabinet

Prime Minister's Office

Ms Allison Henry

The Standing Group on the Boat Tragedy at Christmas Island (Standing Group) reconvened on 24 January 2011 for the third time since its inaugural meeting on 23 December 2010.

The Standing Group was chaired by the Attorney General and Acting Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Robert McClelland, on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs who was on leave.

The Attorney-General and Acting Minister for Home Affairs informed the Standing Group that the review conducted by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) had been finalised and would be released by the Government at a media conference later in the day. The Attorney indicated that embargoed copies had been emailed to Standing Group members.

ACBPS CEO Mr Michael Carmody briefed Standing Group members on the content of the review and its recommendations. He noted that the review was not intended to substitute for the criminal and coronial inquiries on the incident. Mr Carmody noted that ACBPS accepted all recommendations in the review and had commenced implementing them.

The Attorney outlined the Government's response to the review. He noted that the Government accepted all recommendations in the review and that the Prime Minister had asked the existing

Border Protection Taskforce to oversight prompt and thorough implementation of the recommendations. The Attorney also noted the Government's intention to establish a Joint Select Committee once Parliament returned, and invited Standing Group members to participate in the Committee.

Standing Group members were provided an update on developments since the 17 January meeting by senior officials from the Australian Federal Police, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Regional Australia and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Closing Remarks

The Attorney indicated that Standing Group members could receive further briefings from ACBPS once they had an opportunity to consider the report and its findings. Standing Group members would be provided with contact details for the Minister for Home Affairs office to organise further briefings.

The Attorney noted that consultations on the Joint Select Committee would occur in coming days and the progress of that process would impact on the future of the Standing Group and whether and when it would meet again.
