



MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

10 MAY 1999

Detective Stewart Gray  
NSW Police Service  
Bega Police Station  
167 Auckland Street  
BEGA NSW 2550

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 1999 to Major General Connolly requesting costings relating to military activity associated with the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. As this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

The Australian Defence Force continuously maintains a level of preparedness suitable for dealing with civil assistance contingencies, including Search and Rescue. This preparedness is primarily met within existing resource allocations that cover total aircraft flying hours and ship steaming hours for the varied taskings Defence carries out.

In the case of the Search and Rescue activity for the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race in 1998, the Navy and Air Force diverted existing resources to the priority tasking of Search and Rescue. In diverting existing resources, the additional costs estimated by the Navy and Air Force are as presented below, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

. Navy Additional Costs

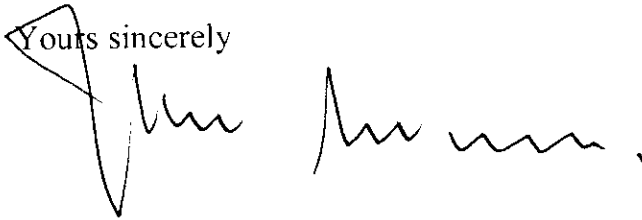
Unit	Hours	Fuel [litres]	Additional Cost
FFG Frigate	38.0	45,396	65,000
SK50 Sea King Helicopter	35.5		78,000
S70b-2 Seahawk Helicopter	18.8		19,000
HS748 Aircraft	1.8		0
Navy Additional Costs			\$162,000

## . Air Force Additional Costs

Unit	Hours	Additional Cost
C130 Hercules	24.0	
P3C Orion	32.2	
Fuel		28,000
Marker Buoys & Flares		23,000
Rations		2,000
Travel		1,000
Fuel Tanker attendance		500
Air Force Additional Costs		\$54,500

This represents a total additional cost to the Department of A\$216,500.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Moore', written in a cursive style.

JOHN MOORE