



## Australian Government

### Department of Communications and the Arts

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

16 February 2018

## Answers to questions on notice

Dear Committee Secretary

I refer to the Department of Communications and the Arts' (the Department) response to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice No. 287 (Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications, Budget Estimates, Communications Portfolio, 15 June 2017), and No. 38 (r) and (s) (Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications, Supplementary Budget Estimates, Communications Portfolio, 24 October 2017, written 6 November 2017).

These questions sought information on the Priority Locations round of the Mobile Black Spot Program, in particular which of the 125 priority locations announced by the Government in 2016 were not listed on the database of reported mobile black spot locations. This database was used to record black spot locations and the associated geographic area reported by the public under rounds 1 and 2 of the program.

In its response to both questions the Department indicated that nine of the 125 priority locations were not listed on the database of reported mobile black spot locations. However, the Department has since identified that three of these nine locations (Nammoona, New Beith/Greenbank and Upper Ulam Road) are in fact listed on the mobile black spot database. The Department identified this discrepancy when undertaking further analysis of the priority locations and black spots database.

The inclusion of these three locations in the previous response was due to an administrative error by the Department. The database contains over 10,800 reported black spots. Locations can be checked three ways: using geospatial systems; by visually referencing maps; and by location names. It is normal practice to use more than one method when checking the database. Due to human error a second cross check was not performed in this instance. The Department has since strengthened its procedures to ensure that a second cross check is always conducted for any further database interrogation.

I can confirm that the remaining six priority locations (Gumdale, Kalorama, Karana Downs, Killcare, Mount Evelyn and Yellow Rock) referred to in response to the questions are not listed on the database of reported mobile black spot locations.

My apologies for this error. I trust this information will be of use to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Richard Windeyer  
A/g Deputy Secretary  
Infrastructure and Consumer