

Senate Inquiry Hearing 16 June 2017
Questions on Notice

Hansard Question on Notice (p.6)

China has been expanding shortwave broadcasts, has it not, in the region?

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is not able to identify any change in China's shortwave broadcasts in the region.

- 1. Can the department confirm that Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu currently operate continuous shortwave broadcasts to reach across their territories?*

Only the Solomon Islands currently operates continuous shortwave broadcasts. Indonesia operates shortwave broadcasts daily from 10:00 – 21:00 Coordinated Universal Time.

- 2. Can the department confirm that China's international broadcaster, China Radio International (CRI), is now the dominant shortwave broadcaster in the West Pacific, South-west Pacific and Central Pacific regions following the ABC's decision to withdraw its shortwave broadcasts to the same regions?*

DFAT does not hold comprehensive information on shortwave broadcasts across the Pacific.

- 3. Can the department advise if a Radio Australia re-broadcaster in Taiwan was fined by the local government administration for transmitting inappropriate and sometimes culturally offensive material from domestic Australian broadcasts?*
 - a. If so, how many times and when?*
 - b. Did this lead to a cessation of a long-standing re-broadcast of Radio Australia?*
 - c. Did this result in damage to Australia's image in that market? If so, to what extent?*

DFAT is not aware of this issue and has been advised by the ABC that the ABC has no re-broadcaster agreements in Taiwan.