

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2015
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 32

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 74-75, 24/02/2015

Topic: Board Minutes

Senator Xenophon asked:

In relation to the process of preparing Board minutes:

1. What material did board members receive from ABC management, or what material did they have in front of them, before decisions were made, for instance, to shut down the Adelaide television production unit?
2. Will you provide a list of the documents that were provided to the board in the lead-up to that [decision]?
3. Who has the power to alter minutes before distribution?

Answer:

1. The Board receives Briefings, Information Papers and Decision papers from management. The Board was actively involved in the development of the ABC management proposals, with no less than eight board meetings to consider the initiatives.
2. The Board was provided with and considered a range of confidential documents prior to the decision to cease television production in Adelaide. This included for instance the *ABC and SBS Efficiency Study* produced for the Minister for Communications.
3. Any member of the Board may suggest amendments to the minutes prior to their approval. Board minutes are ultimately cleared by the Chairman.