

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 12**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Hansard Ref: Page 18, 9/02/2016**

**Topic: Local Content complaints/breaches**

**Senator McKenzie, Bridget asked:**

**Senator McKENZIE:** Thank you very much. In terms of the new system, the complaints driven system, how many complaints have we had about the lack of local content?

**Ms McNeill:** I will take that on notice, and I would also say that there might be a difference between a complaint about a lack of local content and a complaint about noncompliance with the rules. But I will take those issues on notice, if I may.

**Senator McKENZIE:** Although the evidence even in your own surveys points to the importance of local content to regional Australians and others, from that being an issue and something of high importance to them to their actually picking up the phone to call ACMA when their local footy grand final results are not reported is a pretty big step, I think. So I question the shift that you have made. But we will leave that to questions on notice to delve into that a bit more.

In terms of the prior system, I want to know whether there has ever been the case of a regional television broadcaster not meeting their quota.

**Ms McNeill:** I will take that on notice. I think that the answer is yes, but I will take that on notice.

**Senator McKENZIE:** What are the consequences for someone breaching the local content provisions under their licence?

**Ms McNeill:** A failure to comply with those local content obligations is a breach of a licence condition.

**Senator McKENZIE:** In answering the question on notice about breach of contract, could you also outline the circumstances and how ACMA dealt with that—the outcome?

**Ms McNeill:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

With respect to regional commercial television, the ACMA has never received a valid complaint related to local content, either before or since 1 October 2014 (when the local content reporting obligation for regional commercial television services was removed).

No regional commercial television service has ever reported not meeting the quota. The ACMA evaluation and audits have also found that television broadcasters were meeting their quotas.