

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: 16

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Page 20, 9/02/2016

Topic: Rip-and-read bulletins

Senator McKenzie, Bridget asked:

Senator McKENZIE: Are any of those rip-and-read bulletins broadcast out of capital cities or are they broadcast locally?

Ms McNeill: I could not tell you. I will need to take it on notice and see if we have access to that information.

Senator McKENZIE: ACMA cannot tell me? The local content provision is there in the licence, enshrining and protecting that, we think—but we do not even know if that is being broadcast in local communities, let alone if it has content that is produced in local communities?

Ms McNeill: I cannot tell you. I think your question was which licensees are meeting these obligations and what proportion of their obligations are met through rip-and-read-style broadcasts. I cannot provide that information now.

Senator McKENZIE: On notice, then, I would also like to know: with those regional broadcasters who are meeting their local content provisions through rip-and-read-style broadcasts, how often are those broadcasts done in the regions and how often is that local content being read out of capital city newsrooms?

Answer:

The ACMA does not collect this information, nor has it previously collected information of this kind.

‘Rip-and-read’ news broadcasts are permitted under the *Broadcasting Services (Additional Television Licence Condition) Notice 2014* because the definition of material of local significance focuses on nature of the content broadcast and its relevance to the local area, rather than how that content is procured or produced.