

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 182(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Reviews

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - (a) the date they were ordered
 - (b) the date they commenced
 - (c) the minister responsible
 - (d) the department responsible
 - (e) the nature of the review
 - (f) their terms of reference
 - (g) the scope of the review
 - (h) Who is conducting the review
 - (i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - (j) the expected report date
 - (k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - (l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - (a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - (b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - (c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - (d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - (e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - (f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - (g) If yes, for each, who selected them
 - (h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
3. Which reviews are on-going?
 - (a) Please list them.

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(b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

4. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
 - (a) When will each planned review be commenced?
 - (b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - (c) When will government respond to each review?
 - (d) Will the government release each review?
If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. No new reviews have commenced since 14 September 2015.
2. N/A.
3. Ongoing reviews
 - (a) Ongoing reviews being conducted by the Department of Communications and the Arts are as follows:
 - National Opera Review
 - Review of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA Review).
 - (b) The current external costs to date expended on ongoing reviews are as follows:
 - **National Opera Review** – approximately \$272,727 (GST excl).
 - The expenditure on the **ACMA Review** to date has been \$12,120 (GST excl).
4. N/A
5. The following reviews have concluded:
 - The **Simpson Review** of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*
 - **Regional Telecommunications Review** - adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.
6. The following reviews have been provided to the Government:
 - The **Simpson Review** of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* – final report provided 30 September 2015.
 - The **Regional Telecommunications Review** – final report was provided to Government on 23 August 2015.
7. Government Response to completed reviews:
 - The **Simpson Review** – the Government provided its response on 3 February 2016.

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- The **Integrated Public Number Database (IPND) Review** was released by the Government on 7 May 2015. The Government published the implementation plan for the recommendations of the IPND Review in December 2015.
- The Government provided its response to the **Regional Telecommunications Review** on 23 February 2016.

8. A list of reviews planned by the Department is as follows:

Review of access to data retained under data retention scheme

As recommended by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security in Recommendation 23 of its *Advisory report on the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014*, a review of measures regulating civil litigant access to data retained under the data retention scheme will be undertaken.

- (a) It is intended that the review will commence in the first half of 2016.
- (b) It will be concluded by the end of the data retention implementation period (13 April 2017).
- (c) It will be responded to in the same timeframe.
- (d) A decision is yet to be made on whether the report will be made public.

Part XIB Review

A review of the telecommunications specific anti-competitive conduct regime in Part XIB of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* was flagged in the Government's Telecommunications Regulatory and Structural Reform policy paper released in December 2014.

- (a) The Part XIB review is expected to commence later in 2016. The review will need to have regard to amendments to the misuse of market power law in section 46 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*.
- (b) The timetable for the review is yet to be finalised.
- (c) This is a matter for the Government following the outcomes of the review report.
- (d) This is normal practice.