

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 34**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 46, 9/02/2016**

**Topic: Stock reports**

**Senator Williams, John asked:**

**Senator WILLIAMS:** Please do. Where I live is a big selling centre. For example, they have a Tuesday sale every second week—so they will be selling cattle at nine o'clock next Tuesday and sheep at one o'clock. The next morning we want to hear the reports when we turn the radio on. We get a lot of bad news on the radio, but the stock reports these days are very good news—record prices and so on. Why don't you survey your listeners? On Wednesday mornings on 2NZ, our local radio station, there is Brian Baldwin giving a report. I know a lot of people listen to the sales information and so on. This is their livelihoods, especially in a place like New England that is basically grazing country. Up at Walcha, Glen Innes, Armidale and the high country, there is no wheat growing there, just oats for a winter crop for the sheep. It is not as though it is farming country like Moree and down on the plains. I know people are really missing it. Can you do a survey of your listeners?

**Mr Scott:** Yes, we will look into it. We have had some correspondence and we have said we will look into it. I think one of the things you are pointing to is whether or not there is a one-size-fits-all approach for the whole country in this regard. That is what I think they were looking at. But where there are sales of scale and significance, we would want to be reporting them. But let me get some advice on that and come back to you on notice.

**Senator WILLIAMS:** Take the sheep sale next Tuesday back home. We hear about it on *Country Hour*, but that is 24 hours later. I did speak to Ms Reynolds about this, and she said it is news that is 16 or 18 hours old, but it is the first opportunity graziers have to hear that news, not to mention the other people involved—the butchers and so on who rely on buying the livestock. Have you had any complaints from the MLA on it?

**Mr Scott:** A member of parliament wrote to me about it last week. That is all I have seen, but I have not checked with Audience and Consumer Affairs. I know that is the one issue we have had audience feedback on out of the changes we made last year. Let me look into it. I will write back to you on it. If you put a question on notice of course we will respond to it.

**Senator WILLIAMS:** I appreciate that—and please seek feedback from your listeners. I think that would be a very good idea.

**Answer:**

The ABC continues to monitor feedback from audiences around the country in relation to the livestock report changes and has been actively engaging with those who have concerns.

The changes in market reporting on local Breakfast programs was discussed with Meat and Livestock Australia, which is working with ABC Rural as part of an ongoing collaboration to ensure we can best provide analysis and interpretation for the Rural Report.