

**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: 47**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 12/02/2016**

**Topic: ABC Regional division**

**Senator Abetz, Eric asked:**

Is the ABC establishing a regional division (hereinafter called 'the division')?

1. Is the division to be known as ABC Regional?
  - a) If not, what will be the division's name?
2. How much funding will the division receive?
3. From which part or parts of the ABC budget will this funding be sourced?
4. Will the establishment of this division require any redundancies?
  - a) If so, how many?
5. From where will the money be sourced to pay for the redundancies?
6. Will the money come from sources other than the division's allocation?
7. How much are the redundancies or if not known, (stating which) anticipated to cost?
8. What guarantees are there for the future quarantining of the division's income source?

**Answer:**

1. The ABC Regional Division became operational on 1 July 2015. The division is known as ABC Regional.
2. The operational budget for the division for 2015-16 is \$51.6 million. (note: this figure does not represent the full cost of operating the Regional Division, as some costs are paid for by other divisions (eg. Transmission, marketing, property, equipment)).
3. The funding for the 2015/16 financial year was sourced from the News and Radio divisions' operational budgets, as all regionally based staff from those divisions were transferred to ABC Regional on 1 July 2015.
4. As of 19 February 2016, 16 redundancies were associated with the development of ABC Regional. However, there were no net job losses as a result of the creation of ABC Regional as a number of new positions were created replacing former roles under the News and Radio structures.
5. Redundancies will be funded through identified divisional savings.
6. See above.
7. As at 19 February 2016, the total cost of the 16 redundancies was \$2.09 million.

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8. There are no guarantees for the quarantining of the division's budget beyond 2015-16. The budget allocation for all ABC divisions will be predicated on the outcome of the triennial funding allocation in the May 2016 Federal Budget.