

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: 51

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 12/2/2016

Topic: Regional radio stations - streaming

Senator Abetz, Eric asked:

1. Is the ABC committed to streaming of its regional radio stations?
2. Are all regional radio stations streamed?
 - a) If not, how many regional radio stations are currently being streamed?
3. Is there a plan/timetable to stream any more regional radio stations not currently being streamed?
 - a) If so, what is the plan advising the station and anticipated date?
4. From where will the funding for the extra streaming be sourced?

Answer:

1. The ABC is examining extending streaming to all regional radio stations within the next two years.
2. In 2015 the ABC began audio streaming an additional 14 regional radio stations:
 - ABC Alice Springs
 - ABC North West - Karratha
 - ABC Goldfields - Kalgoorlie
 - ABC Northern Tasmania - Launceston
 - ABC Kimberley - Broome
 - ABC Western Queensland - Longreach
 - ABC South West - Bunbury
 - ABC North West Queensland - Mt Isa
 - ABC Far North - Cairns
 - ABC North and West - Port Pirie
 - ABC Western Plains - Dubbo
 - ABC Gippsland - Sale
 - ABC Southern Queensland - Toowoomba
 - ABC Goulburn Murray - Wodonga

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This was in addition to the two services already underway for ABC Gold Coast and ABC Newcastle.

3. The introduction of streams requires changes to the ABC's broadcast architecture to bring the station output back to the ABC's streaming supply partner. This requires careful planning to minimise disruption to existing operations and ensure costs, which are considerable, are kept to a minimum. A timeline is currently being examined.
4. The ABC is discussing with government funding related to these and other regional services as part of its triennial funding submission. Without additional funding, the ABC would need to divert operational funding from elsewhere in its budget.