

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 55

Program No: Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 27/5/2015

Topic: Gladstone radio – post closure

Senator McGrath, James asked:

1. What is the progress on the closure of the Gladstone post?
2. How many staff have been affected?
3. Have there been opportunities for redeployment?
4. Have there been changes to programming across the ABC's network in Central Queensland as a result of the post closure in Gladstone?
5. What is the ABC doing to ensure that local content for listeners in Central Queensland is not compromised by the post closure in Gladstone?

Answer:

1-3. The technical de-fit of the ABC premises at Gladstone was completed in March 2015. There had not been a staff member based out of the office in almost a year. The one News reporter relocated to Rockhampton in the first half of 2014. As a consequence, the number of news reporters in Rockhampton increased from three to four.

4. News stories that feature Gladstone people or canvas local issues continue to run on radio. ABC reporters from Rockhampton also regularly cover television news stories in the region, many of which also feature on the ABC News Online site.

5. Audiences in central Queensland continue to receive local content following the closure of ABC Gladstone. Recent examples of Television stories in the region include

- 19 May - Gladstone is potentially being earmarked for Australia's first new oil refinery in 50 years
- 12 June - Gladstone residents were warned about discharge of chemical waste from an alumina plant.