

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 9

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 19 (25/11/2014)

Topic: Lewis Report

Senator Xenophon asked:

Senator XENOPHON: Okay, but this committee is in the dark. In order to do our job properly, surely we need that information. Even the earlier iterations of the reports, or drafts, would be very useful to this committee.

Senator Birmingham: The government would like to be able to give you the actual report, and I hope that the ABC and SBS come back promptly and give a green light to that.

Senator XENOPHON: And finally—through you, Chair—including any documents sent to the minister from the ABC saying, 'This is where we think we can save money,' I think would be very instructive.

Senator Birmingham: Obviously, I will take that on notice.

Senator XENOPHON: It is not a criticism; I am just trying to understand what is in the ABC's head with respect to some of these cuts.

Senator Birmingham: Certainly.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to Question 8 for information regarding the ABC and SBS Efficiency Study report.

In the context of the ABC and SBS Efficiency Study, the ABC provided a range of advice to the Minister and the Department about its operations. This included commercial-in-confidence material, which is likely to damage the commercial interests of the ABC if released.