

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 73**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Hansard Ref: Page 28, 18/10/2016**

**Topic: 700 MHz auction – ACCC Advice**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Turning to the 700 megahertz auction, what steps will the ACMA and the ACCC take as part of considering competition issues associated with the auction and allocation?

**Mr Bean:** Competition issues are a matter for the ACCC.

**Senator URQUHART:** Yes, I understand that.

**Senator Fifield:** And I have written to the ACCC seeking their advice on that.

**Senator URQUHART:** So you have not got that advice back?

**Senator Fifield:** No, I have not.

**Senator URQUHART:** Will that be made available when you get it?

**Senator Fifield:** Their advice will be an input into my decision as to how to structure the auction. I would not anticipate that it would in the ordinary course of events become a public document, but we can take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** When did you write to the ACCC?

**Senator Fifield:** A couple of weeks ago, I guess. But we can get the date for you if you like.

**Senator URQUHART:** And what is your expectation of when you might get a response?

**Senator Fifield:** Again, we will come back to you. There is a time frame, which is in the near future, but I will hand across to those who can be more specific.

**Answer:**

The ACMA has no role in determining competition limits for any allocation. The ACMA may, when it is allocating spectrum licences, impose limits on the amount of spectrum that may be acquired by a person, but only if directed to do so by the Minister.

If the Minister directs the ACMA with regard to competition limits for the 700 MHz band auction, then the ACMA will implement arrangements to give effect to those limits.

Depending on the nature of the competition limits, the ACMA may also implement arrangements within the online auction system, for example, rules that do not permit any bidder to place bids on a combination of lots that would exceed the limit.

The Minister wrote to the ACCC Chair requesting advice on competition limits on 7 October 2016. The ACCC provided advice to the Minister on 11 November 2016.