

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2011
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Question No: 396

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: EC 96

Topic: National Classification Review - secure transmission

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Is the department working with ACMA in relation to that secure transmission issue?

Mr Rizvi—We are monitoring that development process, but we are not involved explicitly in the development of the technology around the secure transmission.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Has ACMA started any trials in that regard, or are they still doing the internal work?

Mr Rizvi—I would have to take that on notice, Senator. My understanding is that they were scheduled to start early this year. I will need to check precisely where they are up to.

Answer:

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has developed a secure list transmission process and is currently discussing its implementation with those internet service providers wishing to engage in the process.

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Question No: 397

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Spectrum

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Is the department aware of The Access Economics report done for the Attorney-General's Department called *Radiofrequency spectrum options for Public Safety Agencies*, dated 10 September 2010, in which it calls for additional spectrum to be made available for emergency services?
2. Has a decision been made on allocating the 700MHz which will become available as a result of the digital TV switchover?
 - a. If so, what is this decision?
 - b. If not, when is a decision expected?

Answer:

1. The Department is aware of a report prepared by Access Economics called *Radiofrequency spectrum options for Public Safety Agencies*, dated 10 September 2010, that was commissioned by the Attorney-General's Department.
2. No decision has been taken on whether 700MHz spectrum will be allocated for use by emergency service organisations. The processes for planning and carrying out the clearance, reconfiguration and reallocation of the digital dividend spectrum are currently underway. They are being led by the Australian Communications Media Authority with continued Ministerial oversight and involvement from the Department.

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Question No: 398

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Download usage

Senator Birmingham asked:

What estimates has the Department done on the download of information in Australia? By what rate are downloads increasing? What information does the department have on the use of increased download demand? I.e. for what purpose(s) is download growth occurring? Please provide a breakdown on usage by purpose or category as far as is possible.

Answer:

The Department has not made estimates about the download of information in Australia. The Department relies on download data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the Bureau's six-monthly *Internet Activity, Australia* publication (Catalogue no. 8153.0). This publication currently provides data on downloads disaggregated by general internet technology used: dialup, fixed line, wireless (excluding wireless by mobile handsets) and satellite.

The latest release of this publication as at June 2010 indicates that:

- For the June Quarter 2010 downloads over wireless broadband constituted 8.6 per cent of all broadband downloads. Downloads over non broadband (dialup) technology constituted only 0.2 per cent of all downloads.
- Between the December Quarter 2009 and June Quarter 2010, total broadband downloads increased by 21.6 per cent. Downloads over fixed line broadband increased by 25 per cent but downloads for wireless (excluding wireless by mobile handsets) decreased by 6.5 per cent.
- Fixed line subscribers downloaded an average of 27.5 Terabytes of information over the June Quarter 2010, compared with 22.3 Terabytes of information over the December Quarter 2009. Wireless (excluding wireless by mobile handsets) subscribers downloaded an average of 3.7 Terabytes of information over the June Quarter 2010, compared with 4.8 Terabytes of information over the December Quarter 2009.

No definitive data is available disaggregating the purpose(s) for which download growth is occurring. The Australian Communications and Media Authority's recent publication *Australia in the Digital Economy: The Shift to the Online Environment*, November 2010, available at http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_312356, indicates a large range of drivers influencing internet use, including most prominently the growth of online commerce and social networking.

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Question No: 399

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Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Download usage

Senator Birmingham asked:

What proportion of the growth in downloads in Australia is attributable to gaming, video downloads and home entertainment products?

Answer:

See answer to Question no. 398.