

**Environment, Communication and the Arts
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 19 October 2009
Index of Questions on Notice
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

QoN No.	Hansard Page No.	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Rec'd
Department 1.1					
1.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN - USO In its submission on regulatory matters in mid year the South Australian government said</p> <p><i>“ in adopting a policy that the NBN will be a wholesale-only network, it will no longer be possible for any one single provider to accept responsibility for end-to-end service delivery of a USO service as is currently the practice with a single vertically integrated Universal Service Provider. So, who will have the ultimate USO responsibility? The NBN owner seems the logical option as the entity responsible for building the network.”</i></p> <p>Would you agree with that understanding of how the USO needs to work in a structurally separated environment and that NBN co would need a basic retail service, the equivalent of today's PSTN voice service and couldn't be wholesales only if universal service is to guaranteed. If you don't agree how do you see the USO being delivered even in the shorter term if Telstra went down the structurally separated path given in that situation Telstra would no longer control a network and consequently could scarcely be made responsible at a retail level for the delivery of universal service?</p>	NP&R	14/01/10
2.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Office of Best Practice Consultation and Guidelines The Explanatory Memorandum to the legislation says:</p> <p><i>“This regulation assessment has been prepared in consultation with the Department of Finance’s Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) to provide an analysis of the regulatory impact of the Government’s decision to implement measures to address Telstra’s horizontal and vertical integration”</i></p> <p>The Department obviously consulted with, and took guidance from the OBPR in determining the impact of the various options that might flow from the legislation and there are a number of quite complex scenarios. And you would naturally have followed any guidelines the OBPR has?</p> <p>The OBPR’s objective – charter - is to ensure that regulation <i>“meets the dual goals of ‘effectiveness’ and ‘efficiency’</i> and the OBPR notes this <i>“ requires a structured approach to policy development that systematically evaluates costs and benefits”</i>. In outlining best practice regulation the OBPR requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>“An analysis of the likely economic, social and environmental consequences be undertaken”</i> and that. * <i>“The policy development process should at least ensure that the benefits to the community of any regulation actually outweigh the costs, and give some assurance that the option chosen will yield the greatest net benefits.”</i> <p>So in preparing the legislation you've followed the OBPR's guidelines and complied with best practice? You've undertaken the necessary cost benefit analysis?</p> <p>Given you would have complied with OBPR guidelines can you tell me what the comparative costs and benefits to the community – not just to the government or Telstra are of the</p>	NP&R	25/01/10

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3.	Written	Birmingham	<p>various scenarios that could flow from the legislation?</p> <p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Possible Outcomes and Costs and Benefits of Each Scenario There appear to be a number of possible outcomes from the Government's legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telstra sells it's fixed and cable networks and Foxtel stake and gets spectrum • Telstra sells just its fixed network down to a 15% holding and by ministerial discretion is allowed to keep the HFC network and Foxtel and gets spectrum. • Telstra agrees to transfer its traffic to the NBN but loses its HFC network and Foxtel Stake and gets spectrum • Telstra agrees to transfer its traffic to the NBN but keeps The HFC network and Foxtel whilst getting spectrum or • Telstra doesn't voluntarily structurally separate and is subject to functional separation. <p>Each of those scenarios implies radically different costs and benefits, what analysis of the comparative costs and benefits of each of these scenarios has been undertaken? Can I take it that in the absence of any understanding of the costs and benefits that flow from the very complex scenarios that might unwind/ you still maintain consumers will enjoy lower prices? In the absence of any cost benefit analysis how do you form that view?</p>	NP&R	14/01/10
4.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Spectrum Auctions Given the most contentious element of the package is the possible exclusion of Telstra from spectrum auctions do you know what the cost to the community at large and indeed to the government, in the of revenue foregone from auctions, that would flow from excluding Telstra from future auctions? You implied on Wednesday that there were underlying efficiency gains from possibly excluding Telstra from future wireless allocations, competitive gains that would be expressed in innovation and new services - do you believe that there might be efficiency gains from the policy of excluding Telstra from auctions if it chooses not to voluntarily separate? The ACCC in its 'regulatory' submission said at page 83 "<i>there is benefit in allowing the market to determine how available spectrum should be used. If spectrum rights are allocated efficiently (for example, through an efficient auction process) a market approach will generally ensure that spectrum is put to its highest and best use among competing technologies.</i>" Isn't there a real danger that excluding Telstra will mean that efficient auctions can't be conducted and this in turn may lead not just to lower revenues for the government but from auctions might lead to inefficient allocation of spectrum? If Telstra were excluded from any auctions do you feel there's real chance a fourth or even more players might enter the market.?</p>	NP&R	03/02/10
5.	Written	Birmingham	Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Mobile Licences	NP&R	14/01/10

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			You noted last week you'd been involved in the introduction of mobile in Australia - with competition three licences were granted -Telstra - Optus - Vodafone . Could you outline what's happened in Australia when an additional player has entered the market . Could you outline what happened to OneTel and Hutchison?		
6.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Wireless Market In its regulatory submission the ACCC made the following recommendation at para 2.5.1. on page 85 <i>“The ACCC considers that no specific legislative changes are required to address competition concerns in relation to the allocation of spectrum.”</i> Why, given that expert advice, is this legislation built around the possible legislated exclusion of Telstra from the wireless market given that the ACCC believes there are absolutely no competition concerns in that market segment that need to be addressed by legislation?</p>	NP&R	03/02/10
7.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Discrete Markets in the Telecommunications Sector How many discrete markets are there for regulatory purposes in the telecommunications sector in Australia? Is there any precedent in Australian in the telecommunications sector for a regulator limiting an operator's participation in a discrete such as wireless because of its alleged conduct in another market or indeed its overall structure? Can you give me any international precedent from the telecoms sector where a regulator has imposed restrictions on a vertically integrated operator's access to spectrum because of its overall structure or concerns about its market share in the fixed line market?</p>	NP&R	14/01/10
8.	Written	Birmingham	<p>Legislation surrounding Telstra & NBN – Structural Separation Are you aware the Productivity Commission in its 2005 report on the effectiveness of competition policy noted that the costs of structural separation would outweigh the gains – do you have other more recent advice from the PC? Are you aware EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes has maintained that whilst structural separation is appropriate in the utilities it should not be applied to the Telecoms sector? Are you are aware that is also the long standing view of the OECD? Given that no regulator has mandated structural separation is there any precedent in the telecoms industry where an incumbent has voluntarily structurally separated? Do you know what happened with the voluntary separation of eircom – was it abandoned? Do you know why it was abandoned. Evidence given to the committee considering the legislation suggests it was abandoned because the markets wouldn't buy the idea of a wholesale only network – that the markets wouldn't deem a telecoms to be a low risk utility like other industry?</p>	NP&R	14/01/10
9.	Written	Minchin	<p>NBN Grants Approval In relation to grants approved between 5 May 2009 and 28 September 2009, what circumstances surround the Department's provision of financial support to send a number</p>	NP&R	12/01/10

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			of utility companies to the Control Systems Cyber Security Advanced Training Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls from 12-16 October? What benefit is the Department getting from this sponsorship of these companies to attend the Laboratory? How many Department officials attended the same event?		
10.	ECA 98	Parry	Tasmania NBN Rollout So from mid-July next year those three towns should be operational. What is the time frame for the rest of Tasmania, in particular Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and the greater north-west? I am happy for any of these to be taken on notice.	NBNI	12/01/10
11.	ECA 99	Parry	Tasmania NBN Rollout – Overhead Cabling Community Consultation There is opposition to overhead cabling in Tasmania, and I can speak, as a Tasmanian senator. Recently, you may be aware, we had some severe storms and we were subjected to strong winds, Antarctic and otherwise, that knocked out power connections for up to four days. In some areas we had some severe disruptions, and they were overhead power cables. I just place that on the record—that is, that there be consideration given to having as much underground cabling as possible. You mentioned a consultation, and I will be interested to know from Mr Quigley about that. Has the consultation process been undertaken with the first three communities that I mentioned? Has consultation commenced? Can that be provided to the committee on notice. Has consultation commenced with the three communities involved in the rollout process? Thank you. If that could be provided on notice, that would be good. What is the process for consultation? Is it by going to all householders? Is it by way of letter? Is it by way of just consulting with the local government authority? Do you have any idea of the method to take place?	NBNI	03/02/10
12.	ECA 99 & 100	Parry	Tasmania NBN Rollout – Small Business and Schools Consultation Have small business operators and schools been consulted independently of the broad consultation or will they be consulted independently? Yes, please take that on notice. It appears, though, that whilst it has commenced there is not really much detail at this point in time.	NBNI	25/01/10
13.	ECA 100	Parry	Tasmania NBN Rollout – Cabling and Trenches Dug Could you provide on notice what cabling has been undertaken and what trenches have been dug.	NBNI	25/01/10
14.	ECA 100	Birmingham	Tasmania NBN Rollout – Cost of Current Three Rollouts Can you confirm whether the \$37 million covers 100 per cent of the three towns?	NBNI	14/01/10
15.	Written	Birmingham	National Broadband Network – Reconciliation of All Expenses Please provide a reconciliation of all expenses to date associated with the National Broadband Network (NBN) Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the establishment of the NBN Co, the Implementation Study into the NBN and any other expenses related to either the FTTN NBN or FTTP NBN proposals. Please include details of all payments made to consultants or external advisers, broken down for each of the	NBNI	08/02/10

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			aforementioned processes.		
16.	Written	Birmingham	<p>National Broadband Network – Gibson Quai Consultancies What consultancies have Gibson Quai been engaged to provide since the 2007 election? How much have they been paid for each of those consultancies? What were the key deliverables of each of those consultancies? Was Gibson Quai engaged specifically to advise the Government on the costs and details of the proposed FTTP NBN? What role did Gibson Quai play in advising the Government prior to the decision to proceed with the FTTP NBN? Did Gibson Quai cite \$43 billion as the cost of building the FTTP NBN in any of their work for the Government? What other expert advisers (referred to by the Minister at ECA 111) did the Government have informing its decision to undertake the FTTP NBN?</p>	NBNI	12/01/10
Department 1.2					
17.	Written	Minchin	<p>Do Not Call Register How is the legislation progressing to implement the Budget decision to expand the Do Not Call Register?</p>	DESV	01/12/09
125.	Written	Minchin	<p>Do Not Call Register I understand the Minister has received a copy of the Access Economics report commissioned by the ADMA that warned of the impact of the expansion of the register would have on the economy and the burden on businesses with compliance costs? Is any consideration been given to moderating the proposed changes as a result of these concerns?</p>	DESV	01/12/09
126.	Written	Minchin	<p>Do Not Call Register Has the ACMA done any work to implement the policy decision in advance of the passage of the legislation through the Parliament?</p>	DESV	01/12/09
Department 1.3					
18.	ECA114	Birmingham	<p>ABC & SBS Board Vacancies How many ABC and SBS board vacancies are coming up? What process is planned for the appointment to fill Ms Albrechtsen's vacancy on the ABC Board whose appointment ends on 23 January 2010?</p>	BDS	01/12/09
19.	Written	Fifield	<p>Digital Television switchover in Mildura / Sunraysia Region Household Assistance Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have letters been sent to recipients of Disability Support Pension, and other eligible income support recipients, inviting them to participate in the program? • When and who sent the letters? • How many responses have been received? • How many eligible households have received in-home assistance to date? • When will the assistance package stop being available to eligible households – is there a cut off date? 	BDS	01/12/09
20.	Written	Ludlam	<p>Analog Switch-off Digital Take up – Blackspots Report The first and second report on Digital TV Transmission and Reception tabled in May and August respectively did not contain any information concerning areas where digital TV had been rolled out but where viewers within the expected coverage areas of those facilities were having trouble picking</p>	BDS	25/01/10

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			up all local digital channels. These are “black spots”. When will such black spot information be provided in these quarterly reports?		
21.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up At Senate Estimates in May it was reported that ACMA was carrying out a survey in Mildura covering such aspects as the preparedness of the local terrestrial aerial population for reliable reception of digital TV. What has that survey reported?	BDS	25/01/10
22.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up - Conversion Is it true that the Digital Tracker reports published by the Digital Switchover Taskforce and reporting the level of digital take up mostly measure the extent to which homes have purchased digital reception equipment and are not primarily aimed at detecting whether those homes can actually receive and watch all local digital TV services all of the time?	BDS	03/02/10
23.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up – Dissatisfaction In respect of reception of digital TV the 2 nd Digital Tracker report said that 18% of the TV homes in Australia that had converted were dissatisfied with digital TV and that the overwhelming reason for this was reception issues. What are the causes of this reception problem?	BDS	25/01/10
24.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up - Renters In respect of terrestrial aerials the 2 nd Digital Tracker report said that about 10% of TV homes use set top aerials for their “main TV set”. When it came to flat dwellers and renters the same figures were 18% and 15% respectively. Given that probably double those percentages of secondary TV sets are attached to set top aerials does the Government see this as a major problem for digital reception?	BDS	25/01/10
25.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up – Internal antenna In respect of reception from various types of terrestrial aerials the 2 nd Digital Tracker report said that 18% of homes using a set top aerial on their main TV set experienced difficulty with digital reception compared with only 9% of homes using an external aerial. Does the Government think that people using set top aerials for their main or secondary TV sets are likely to have to purchase a new external aerial in order to get reliable reception of all of their local digital channels all of the time?	BDS	25/01/10
26.	Written	Ludlam	Analog Switch-off Digital Take up – Rental properties Given what appears to be a significant issue relating to aerials and digital reception – particularly for renters and flat dwellers – would the Government reconsider including the cost of a new aerial for those people eligible for assistance to convert to digital and who are renters? (<u>Currently the Mildura assistance scheme rules do not allow aerial replacement for renters but do for those owning a home</u>)?	BDS	08/02/10
27.	Written	Ludlam	Anti-siphoning review 1. Given the importance of the definitions of the “simulcast or main channel” and “digital multichannels” in the workings of the anti-siphoning scheme how are these two different concepts to be defined once the analog channel is switched-off in any given area? 2. Does not the current functioning of the scheme rely on there being a ‘sole analog channel’ in order to definitively determine what is the ‘main’ or ‘simulcast’ digital	BDS	25/01/10

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			channel?		
28.	Written	Macdonald	Imparja TV in Alice Springs Imparja TV in Alice Springs has purpose-built digital TV facilities, however these are not able to be switched on because of \$7 million funding needed for repeaters. When will the \$7 million be made available – and from what source – to enable Imparja TV to switch over to digital TV broadcasting?	BDS	25/01/10
29.	Written	Macdonald	Viewer Access Discussion Paper It is noted that the discussion paper canvassing options for using satellite for widespread delivery of free-to-air digital TV is still not available – despite assurances by the Minister at the February Estimates that it would be released in March 2009. What is the hold-up in release of the discussion paper? What is the Government doing to expedite the release of this paper?	BDS	08/02/10
30.	Written	Macdonald	Digital TV Blackspots The Mildura pilot program is being used as a pilot to provide a solution for other digital TV blackspots in places including North Queensland. It is due for roll-out/switch over in 2010 (including a satellite solution for residents outside the reach of transmission towers) – there has been no notice from the Government to the community about what they need to do – some 6 months out from the proposed switchover date. With local communities losing faith in the Government's proposed "Mildura solution", how will the Government ensure all people will have access to digital TV on switchover?	BDS	03/02/10
31.	Written	Minchin	Broadcasting - Statutory Reviews Have you commenced any work in relation to the statutory review required by s61CT of the BSA into regional radio localism requirements (due before 4 April 2010)? When will you commence this work? Will this review involve public consultation?	BDS	01/12/09
32.	Written	Minchin	Digital Radio Has work commenced on the review of regional digital radio technologies? There has been a bit of interest in this given the commencement of digital radio in metro areas – is there any consideration being given to commencing this review early? What consideration is being given to assistance to extend the reach of digital radio outside of the 5 metro areas?	BDS	01/12/09
33.	Written	Minchin	Community TV Since Budget Estimates, has the Minister or the Department met with representatives from the Community TV sector to discuss their concerns about the transition to digital television? Is the Government any closer to acting on these concerns in advance of switchover?	BDS	01/12/09
34.	Written	Minchin	Digital Switchover Taskforce – spending on car parking Murray motion on grants Item 184– details the Taskforce spending over \$100,000 on car parking. Why? Who gets access to the Dept- sponsored parking?	BDS	01/12/09
35.	Written	Minchin	Digital Switchover Taskforce – mail house services Item 157 – Salmat mail house services What was mailed and where to?	BDS	01/12/09
36.	Written	Minchin	Digital Switchover Taskforce – spending Item 57 and 143 – explain differences. Appreciate that 57 is the Digital Tracker	BDS	01/12/09

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37.	Written	Minchin	<p>Digital Switchover Taskforce - Door-to-door Sales and Household assistance Regarding the door-to-door sales people in regional Victoria selling set-top boxes Are you confident there is now enough public awareness to negate the problem? When considering the legislation regarding household assistance, it was mentioned that Centrelink would write to eligible households regarding conversion assistance – has this occurred in Mildura/Sunraysia? What is the timeline for letters regarding eligibility to be written to eligible households in regional South Australia, Victoria and Queensland (the areas where assistance measures have been budgeted)? When will other parts of Australia know whether they will also be eligible for household assistance measures? What does Orima Research do as “Communications Research”?</p>	BDS	03/02/10
38.	Written	Minchin	<p>Digital Tracker Only 1% know when the digital switch will occur in their area which was unchanged from the first quarter. Is the Government and the Task Force concerned about this? Do you have any particular performance indicators tied into your communications strategy? Were you planning for more than a 6% increase in conversion between surveys, particularly given your significant spending on communications strategy? What is the total amount spent on communications and awareness activities for the period between the surveys? Are you concerned by the number of people who are still not converted in the Mildura/Sunraysia area? (25% - table 4) Are you concerned by the fall in Darwin of people who intend to convert between surveys? (figure 8) How much have you spent on awareness and education campaigns in each switchover area?</p>	BDS	25/01/10
39.	Written	Minchin	<p>Reception issues/Satellites – Delayed release of Discussion Paper Please provide an update on the release of the satellite discussion paper? What are the reasons for the delay – which is now more than 8 months since the Minister advised at Additional Estimates that it would be completed by April? Will there be further delays?</p>	BDS	08/02/10
40.	Written	Minchin	<p>Satellite – Local Content Are you progressing the issue of local content?</p>	BDS	08/02/10
41.	Written	Minchin	<p>Reception issues/Satellites – Viewer access options Have you examined the cost comparison of a satellite solution compared to a transmission infrastructure upgrade solution for self help retransmission sites and newly identified digital black spot areas?</p>	BDS	08/02/10
42.	Written	Minchin	<p>Digital Reception Issues What steps are you taking to identify areas with current analog reception, but who do not have a quality digital picture? Mr Andy Townend, – is referred to as saying in an article in the Herald Sun on 3 October that there was no evidence digital signals caused more viewer problems than analog.</p>	BDS	08/02/10

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			There are a many areas and households who disagree with Mr Townend including residents of Lyndoch, Angaston and Gumeracha (South Australia) who are unable to get a digital signal. What responses does Mr Townend and the Taskforce have for these residents and others like them who are unable to get a digital signal?		
Department - General					
43.	ECA114	Birmingham	Legal – FOI How many FOI applications has the department handled this year? Can you also advise us of how many were successful, unsuccessful or partly successful?	Legal	01/12/09
44.	Written	Birmingham	Staffing Please provide the names, salaries, titles and responsibilities of all staff in the Minister's office. Please indicate what their salaries were in October 2007 (or when they started) and what their salaries are now. Please identify which staff have government cars as part of their package. What model vehicles do they drive? What is the cost of the vehicle packages? Which staff are entitled to fly business class? What is the home base for each of the staff? If they are not located in the home base of the employing Minister/Parliamentary Secretary or Canberra, what is the reason?	C&B	12/01/10
45.	Written	Birmingham	Staff training In relation to both Departmental and Ministerial staff, please provide details of staff training activities undertaken this financial year, and planned for next financial year. Please provide a breakdown of costs, the nature of the training programs run, numbers of staff involved by level of employment and any instances of external consultants being engaged. Where external consultants were engaged, please detail their expertise and the specific deliverables of the program.	C&B	13/01/10
46.	Written	Birmingham	Hospitality What is the Department's hospitality spend for 2008-09? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For the Minister's office, please detail total hospitality spend for 2008-09. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.	C&B	12/01/10
47.	Written	Birmingham	Ministerial Travel Has the Minister travelled overseas on official business in 2008-09? If so, where was the travel, what was the purpose and what was the duration? What was the total cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses? How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister? For these staff (please outline their position)/family what was the cost of: a) travel	C&B	12/01/10

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			<p>b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?</p> <p>How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister?</p> <p>In relation to these Departmental officers (please outline their position), what was the total cost of:</p> <p>a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?</p> <p>Were any costs or expenses, as covered above, met by private companies, unions or other organisations? If so, please provide details.</p> <p>Please detail total travel expenses met by the Department. In relation to all departmental travel expenses, please provide estimated resulting carbon emissions. Were any offsets purchased? If so, how many and at what cost?</p>		
48.	Written	Minchin	<p>Use of Media Monitors</p> <p>Does the Department or Minister's office use Media Monitors to monitor door stops at Parliament House during sitting weeks?</p> <p>Who requested the doors be monitored and when?</p> <p>Does the Department get transcripts of all the door stop interviews of Members and Senators during sittings weeks or just door stops relevant to the Department's responsibilities?</p> <p>Does the Minister's office get transcripts of the door stop interviews of Members and Senators during sittings weeks?</p> <p>How much does each door stop transcript included add to the cost to the Department?</p> <p>Has the requirement to include online sites in the media monitoring contract for the portfolio added to the cost of providing media monitoring services? If so, by how much?</p>	C&B	03/02/10
NBN Co.					
49.	ECA 62 & 63	Birmingham	<p>NBN Co CEO Contract & Appointment</p> <p>Can you confirm that Mr Quigley has entered into a fixed-term contract of some nature and was it approved by Cabinet rather than by the board?</p> <p>Are there fixed performance indicators attached to the appointment?</p>	NBN Co	15/01/10
50.	ECA 96	Fielding	<p>NBN Staffing</p> <p>How many staff are there on board and where are they based?</p>	NBN Co	03/02/10
51.	ECA 64	Minchin	<p>NBN Co Staffing</p> <p>What is your current monthly employment bill? How much are you paying out monthly in salaries and contracts now for the 38 employees, or whatever it is?</p>	NBN Co	08/02/10
52.	ECA 64	Minchin	<p>NBN Co Accommodation</p> <p>What rentals are you paying currently per month?</p>	NBN Co	25/01/10
53.	ECA 65	Minchin	<p>NBN Co Capital</p> <p>Was the \$60 million approved by the finance minister only and what was the process that was followed?</p>	NBN Co	14/01/10
54.	ECA70	Minchin	<p>NBN Co Implementation</p> <p>Can you provide a copy of the tender document and terms of reference?</p>	NBN Co	14/01/10
Australia Post					
55.	ECA 11	Fielding	<p>InjuryNET - Contract</p> <p>What is going to trigger it (the contract) coming up for tender?</p>	Aus Post	25/01/10
56.	ECA 12	Fielding	<p>Facility Nominated Doctors – Training</p>	Aus Post	01/12/09

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			Could you provide the committee with a copy of the package of training?		
57.	ECA 12	Fielding	Mr Scott Lynch Are you aware of the case - and it has been raised before publicly – of Scott Lynch? Are you aware of those claims in this case?	Aus Post	03/02/10
58.	ECA 15	Abetz	Strategies to Improve Productivity – Deeper Automation in Delivery Network What capital has been set aside to undertake these initiatives? What is the estimated impact of these initiatives in relation to cost savings or greater efficiencies? And also, the scheduled timing of their introduction?	Aus Post	13/01/10
59.	ECA 17	Abetz	Sponsorship of Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race Is Australia Post going to continue its sponsorship of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race?	Aus Post	13/01/10
60.	ECA 19	Abetz	Licensee Commissions – Increases due to come into effect on 1 July 2009 Did they come into effect on 1 July 2009? If there was a delay, why did it occur and what mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that it does not happen again?	Aus Post	01/12/09
61.	Written	Fielding	Decipha What was Decipha's pre-tax profit for 2008/2009 What was Decipha's net profit for 2008/2009 What was Decipha's revenue for 2008/2009 What was the remuneration of the directors and executives of Decipha in 2008/2009 What were the numbers of Decipha employees employed as at 30 June 2009 who were: · Permanent full-time · Permanent part-time · Agency staff full-time · Agency staff part-time · Fixed-term full-time · Fixed-term part-time	Aus Post	01/12/09
62.	Written	Abetz	Australia Post Board/Managing Director Will the Minister ensure that the next appointee to the Australia Post Board has postal industry experience? Did the Minister consider bringing in international postal industry experience for the Australia Post Board? Will the next Managing Director of Australia Post be directed to attend Senate Estimates hearings by either the Board or the Minister? What has Australia Post budgeted for the cost of the global search for a new Managing Director?	Aus Post	25/01/10
63.	Written	Abetz	Mail Service Contracts How many individual mail service contracts does Australia Post have? How many individual contractors are engaged to perform these mail services? What is the largest number of contracts held by any one individual contractor?	Aus Post	01/12/09
64.	Written	Abetz	Messenger Post How many MessengerPost contractors are engaged by Australia Post? How does Australia Post award MessengerPost contracts?	Aus Post	13/01/10
65.	Written	Abetz	Mail Contract Tender Assessment	Aus Post	01/12/09

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			<p>Is the assessment of tenders for mail contracts subject to any review to ensure that correct assessment procedures are being followed?</p> <p>Can Australia Post guarantee the integrity of the tender assessment process and the accuracy of the information supplied to interested tenderers?</p> <p>What action can a tenderer take if they are concerned that Australia Post has not followed correct procedure in assessing tenders for a mail service?</p>		
66.	Written	Abetz	<p>Public Liability Insurance – LPOs and CPAs</p> <p>What was the total cost paid by Australia Post for public liability insurance for Community Mail and Postal Agencies for 2008/2009?</p> <p>Which insurance broker did Australia Post use to place this insurance? Which insurance broker is being used for 2009/2010?</p> <p>Did Australia Post call for tenders for this insurance business? If not, why not? Will Australia Post call for tenders for this insurance business for 2010/2011?</p>	Aus Post	13/01/10
67.	Written	Abetz	<p>Future Price Increases</p> <p>What impact will future price increases have on the service that Australia Post provides to the community?</p> <p>Will it reduce the frequency of service delivery for letter delivery? Will it reduce the number of retail outlets?</p> <p>Given the financial pressures Australia Post says it is facing that requires a price increase will it be curtailing its generous spending on entertainment such as at the Olympic games and its sponsorship of events such as the Stawell Gift and yachts in the Sydney to Hobart race?</p>	Aus Post	03/02/10
68.	Written	Abetz	<p>Executive Remuneration/Managing Director/Succession Planning</p> <p>Given the current community debate about executive remuneration can you tell us what are plans to reign in the salary of the highest paid public servant who is the managing director of Australia Post?</p> <p>Will there be many restrictions on the number of other board positions that the managing director can occupy given the concern that he should apply him/herself full time to the duties of managing director?</p> <p>What are the succession plans for the remainder of the organisation, given that the current management team is close to retirement and a high turnover over the next few years could jeopardise the organisation's performance?</p> <p>Is it expected that there will be major changes to the senior management team when the new MD is appointed?</p> <p>Is Graeme John on any Australia Post-related boards, such as Australian Air Express or Star Track Express? If so, will he continue to serve on those boards after his retirement?</p>	Aus Post	03/02/10
69.	Written	Abetz	<p>Financial Service Products Survey</p> <p>We note that Australia Post has recently undertaken a survey of people that asks people if they are thinking of engaging financial service products that then identifies them for follow up by a range of financial service providers, some of them not mentioned in the survey document. Does Australia Post feel it is failing in its corporate duty to flog these products in contradiction of the ASIC warning?</p>	Aus Post	25/01/10

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70.	Written	Abetz	<p>Mail Contract Tender Cost Items What cost items are mail contractors expected to list when they tender for a mail contract? Australia Post has previously informed the Committee that it uses fuel pricing data from FuelTrac to perform fuel price reviews on mail contracts. Australia Post has stated previously that the FuelTrac service is a subscription service. Does Australia Post recognise FuelTrac subscriptions as a cost item in a tender for a mail contract?</p>	Aus Post	01/12/09
71.	Written	Abetz	<p>Licensee Payments An increase in some LPO commissions was supposed to come into effect from 1 July. To date, those increases have not been paid to Licensees. How did this happen, and what steps has Australia Post taken to ensure this never happens again? When will the increases be paid to Licensees? Will Australia Post be paying interest on these withheld payments? When it comes to negotiating payments with individual Licensees, does Australia Post give authority to its Area Managers to reach agreement on mutually acceptable payments? Or do negotiations have to be handled by a more senior manager? Australia Post has national policies in place regarding ethical behaviour, regarding whistle blowing, policies about giving respect to everyone involved in the Australia Post business. Does Australia Post have a policy with regard to good faith bargaining?</p>	Aus Post	01/12/09
72.	Written	Abetz	<p>Licensed Post Offices - Stock Distribution, Staffing and Support Australia Post has consolidated its stock distribution centres. This has resulted in significant disruption to the distribution of retail stock to LPOs. Licensees have complained about stock arriving late or not at all, consignments being broken up, and receiving invoices in advance of the stock! Surely, the national postal operator can get distribution right for its own network! Why did Australia Post consolidate its stock distribution centres? If it was to drive efficiencies in the business, how much money has been saved? Given all the complaints about stock distribution to LPOs, has the consolidation been worth it? How does Australia Post calculate the number of staff needed to support Licensed Post Offices? Typically, how many LPOs would an Area Manager or Network Manager be responsible for? Licensees frequently complain that it is nearly impossible to reach Australia Post's LPO support staff. What is Australia Post doing to ensure that LPO support staff are available to assist Licensees as needed?</p>	Aus Post	03/02/10
73.	Written	Abetz	<p>Staff Working Interstate How many Australia Post staff live in one State and work in another? Has Australia Post investigated the impact this has on</p>	Aus Post	03/02/10

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			employees' wellbeing and the wellbeing of their families?		
74.	Written	Abetz	Retail Network Changes 2008/09 In the financial year 2008/09: How many LPOs were closed? How many new LPOs were opened? How many corporate post offices were converted to LPOs? Please list each LPO.	Aus Post	01/12/09
75.	Written	Abetz	Retail Network Changes (cont) In the financial year 2008/09: How many Franchised post shops were closed? How many new Franchised post shops were opened? How many corporate post shops were converted to franchise operations? Please list each franchised post shop. In the financial year 2008/09: How many Community Mail/Postal Agencies were closed? How many new Community Mail/Postal Agencies were opened? Were any post offices converted to Community Mail/Postal Agencies? Please list each Community Mail/Postal Agency.	Aus Post	01/12/09
76.	Written	Abetz	Customer Complaints What is the Australia Post procedure for handling customer complaints in the event of a missing mail item? Does the procedure differ if a mail contractor is involved instead of a corporate postie? Please detail the procedure for any compensation or cost recovery. Has the increase in the uptake of track-and-trace had any impact on complaints regarding missing mail items?	Aus Post	03/02/10
77.	Written	Abetz	LPO Management Manual Does Australia Post have a LPO Management Manual/Guide or similar that is used to assist in the management of LPO's? Or does it rely entirely on the LPO Agreement and the LPO manual?	Aus Post	01/12/09
78.	Written	Minchin	Managing Director Jim Marshall acting as Chief Operating Officer at present and will he act as managing director from December until a permanent appointment is made? How is the recruitment process to appoint a new CEO progressing? When will an announcement be made? How long do you anticipate requiring an acting MD?	Aus Post	01/12/09
79.	Written	Minchin	Investment strategy At the same time that Mr John announcement his impending retirement, Post also announced some \$700million in investments over the next 3 years Please outline what these investments are and how they will help negate what is anticipated fall in tradition mail? What is the profile for when money will be expended on these "investments"? Does this change the profitability projections for Post this FY or over the forward estimates? Does this investment announcement include funding to expand passport services and offer online applications? How much capital is being devoted to this component? What security processes/checks will be involved in the online	Aus Post	03/02/10

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			<p>application of passports? Will online services for passports be open to everyone? Why is Post investing in the technology/IT project? Are you working closely with Government departments on the technology to ensure any such IT proposal is entirely secure?</p>		
80.	Written	Minchin	<p>Insurance Regarding the announcement to expand into Insurance sector - how long have car insurance services been available? Is insurance only available from Post online or over the phone? Can insurance policies be purchased in outlets? What has been the level of interest in insurance services thus far? Are you still planning to expand into home and contents and travel insurance? Can you outline the timeframe and processes you undertook before offering insurance products? Did you seek specific approval for the different types of insurance or more generally for a suite of insurance products? Did you seek and receive the approval of either or both the Communications and Finance Ministers to diversify your product offering through insurance? When did you seek approval? When was approval granted? Who granted the approval? Were any conditions placed on the offering of insurance products by the Shareholder Minister or Finance Minister? Was there any concerns raised by the Shareholder Minister/s about the diversification of Australia Post's product offering into insurance?</p>	Aus Post	03/02/10
81.	Written	Minchin	<p>Stamp price When are you expecting a decision from the ACCC on your proposal to increase the price of stamps by 5 cents to 60 cents? Note in your annual report, that you indicate that in 2008/09 that revenue from the letters portfolio was up by 0.7%, despite the difficulties you mentioned during Budget Estimates about the global financial conditions having an impact on your business lines - is this marginal increase in revenue a result of the stamp increase to 55 cents?</p>	Aus Post	01/12/09
82.	Written	Minchin	<p>Roadside mail delivery in Busselton WA - the change from RMB to rural road numbering system Can you outline the background behind the change from RMB and where rural road numbering has been introduced, and where it will be introduced over the next 12 months? Have concerns been raised with Post about the non-delivery of mail items because of the change to rural road numbering? How many complaints have been lodged and from which regions have these complaints been received? Did Post conduct a communication process with residents about the changes and how they would be affected? I understand that there was a transition period in which Post was still delivering mail marked RMD in areas that have now completed the change to rural road numbering. How long did this transition period last in Busselton? How long has or will the transition period last in other areas? What steps did you take to notify residents during this transition period of action they should take to avoid delivery problems?</p>	Aus Post	25/01/10

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			Why can't mail addressed to RMD addressed be delivered after the change to rural road numbering?		
ABC					
83.	ECA 21	Macdonald	Remuneration - Kerry O'Brien Can you provide details of the remuneration paid to Kerry O'Brien including salary and allowances.	ABC	25/01/10
84.	ECA 23	Parry	ABC Radio Transmission – North-West Tasmania Could you provide details of complaints received by the ABC regarding radio reception difficulties in the Wynyard-Somerset area of Tasmania.	ABC	12/01/10
85.	ECA 26	Bushby	ABC Radio Transmission – Flinders Island Could you provide details of any complaints received by the ABC regarding radio reception difficulties on Flinders Island?	ABC	12/01/10
86.	ECA 27	Fielding	Video Clip of 'The Chasers' Did the ABC complain to the President of the Senate about a video clip I took of 'The Chasers' in the Senate and ask for it to be removed from my website?	ABC	12/01/10
87.	ECA 28/30	Abetz	Correction of incorrect report issued by United Nations on AM program With regard to Budget Estimates QON 137 from Senator Troeth, on what date did the ABC release the outcome of its investigation? Could you also check that the correction was not made on air and that the correction was made as an editor's note on 22 May.	ABC	12/01/10
88.	ECA 30/31	Abetz	On-air Corrections Can the ABC advise how many on-air corrections have been undertaken in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and what the issues were, especially regarding Israel..	ABC	12/01/10
89.	ECA 31	Abetz	Correction – Lord of the Forest What action, if any, was taken by the ABC to discipline the person who backdated the correction on the website by three months to make it look like a timely correction? Who was responsible for taking that action? What was the name of the person involved?	ABC	12/01/10
90.	ECA 32/33/34	Abetz	Report of Off the Record Discussions – Mr Brissenden Did the ABC investigate how an incorrect date and month found its way onto Mr Brissenden's notes? What action or counselling was undertaken against, with or for Mr Brissenden in relation to this episode? Are you able to provide a copy of Mr Brissenden's notes? Did <i>Media Watch</i> ever run a segment on this report? Has the ABC ever published the actual date of the dinner?	ABC	12/01/10
91.	ECA 37	Birmingham	Animation of Bananas in Pyjamas (1) What is the production cost of the one commissioned animated series? Could you indicate those components of the costs relating to the offshore production versus those components relating to onshore activities.	ABC	12/01/10
92.	ECA 37	Fielding/ Birmingham	Animation of Bananas in Pyjamas (2) Could you advise why the ABC has not chosen someone in Australia to provide the animation? Does the ABC still consider Bananas in Pyjamas Australian content and if so, why? If the animation is offshore, what, if any, part of the production is onshore?	ABC	12/01/10
93.	ECA 38	Birmingham	Animation of Bananas in Pyjamas (3) Does the animated series meet ACMA's Australian content requirements for commercial broadcasters?	ABC	12/01/10

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94.	ECA 38	Birmingham	Budget Estimates QON 163 - Hours of Australian Content In the table for ABC1 first run broadcast hours that you provided in relation to QON 163, the Australian content first run-hours figure has decreased from 150 in the 2008-09 estimate to 135 hours in the 2009-10 estimate. However, the 2009-10 budget estimate has gone up from \$8.1 million in 2008-09 to \$26.7 million for 2009-10. Can you advise if the \$26.7 million then includes production costs for ABC3, and if not, could you provide production volumes or total costs for ABC1 specific material only.	ABC	25/01/10 + 2 att'ts
95.	ECA 40	Birmingham	Budget Estimates QON 162 ABC Program Complaints In response to QON 162, the ABC stated that 4,847 issues were investigated, of which 650 were upheld. What proportion of those relate to television versus radio. Please provide extra detail on the nature of those issues.	ABC	12/01/10
96.	ECA 40	Birmingham	ABC Program Complaints - Corrections Under the ABC processes, are all complaints that are upheld corrected on the website? Under what circumstances would a complaint that was upheld not be corrected in some way, shape or form? Please provide the new self-regulatory policies which outline the process for dealing with complaints.	ABC	12/01/10
97.	ECA 42	Birmingham	Appearances by the Prime Minister on <i>The Insiders, the 7.30 Report and Lateline</i> How many times has the Prime Minister been asked to appear on <i>The Insiders, the 7.30 Report and Lateline</i> ? How many times has the Prime Minister appeared on these programs?	ABC	12/01/10
98.	ECA 43	Fielding	Appearances by Political Parties on 7.30 Report Could the ABC advise, party by party, who has appeared on <i>7.30 Report</i> .	ABC	12/01/10 + 1 att
99.	ECA 43	Ludlam	ABC iView Service - Traffic Could the ABC provide some traffic data on how many people access iView?	ABC	12/01/10
100.	ECA 43	Ludlam	ABC iView Service - Costs What are the costs to the ABC of putting that content online; is it a significant additional cost?	ABC	12/01/10
101.	ECA 47/48	Ludlam	Noise volume of ABC promotions Can you advise whether announcements or promotions on ABC TV and radio are broadcast at higher volumes than the programming?	ABC	12/01/10
102.	Written	Minchin	ABC Regional Broadband Hubs Can the ABC provide an update on the regional Broadband Hubs budget measure?	ABC	04/02/10
103.	Written	Minchin	Advertising of ABC Products Has the time spent advertising ABC programs and products (including ABC shop services) increased? How much broadcast time per day is self-advertising?	ABC	25/01/10
104.	Written	Minchin	ABC Satellite Broadcasting When suppression order relating to the Tony Mokbel Trial is lifted will satellite viewers actually be able to see all interstate broadcasts of the ABC News again?	ABC	12/01/10
105.	Written	Minchin	ABC Digital Switchover Going forward and in relation to the digital switchover – will multi-state broadcasts be available?	ABC	08/02/10
SBS					
106.	ECA 55	Ludlam	SBS Online program content.	SBS	01/12/09

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			Is there a policy whereby after a certain period content is removed from the website or are you starting to hold that material in perpetuity?		
107.	ECA 55/56	Ludlam	Advertisements in feature films With regard to SBS policy that films longer than 60 minutes should be broadcast with only two breaks, I am aware of a number of instances in which programs longer than 60 minutes are being broadcast with up to five breaks. One example is the German film <i>Eight Miles High</i> screened at 11.00pm on 11 September 2009 which ran for nearly two hours and had five breaks. Could follow up on that.	SBS	01/12/09
108.	ECA 61	Wortley	Audience engagement through social media activities Following up from a question in the May budget estimates (Senate Hansard ECA pp135/136), can you advise on progress with the development of audience engagement through the new social media activities such as Facebook and Twitter.	SBS	01/12/09
ACMA					
109.	ECA77	Birmingham	Al-Manar Do you know what reach it has or where and how it broadcasts into Australia?	ACMA	04.02/10
110.	ECA77	Abetz	Al-Manar What costs are associated with: (i) subscribing to Al-Manar; (ii) subscribing to Indosat; and (iii) the equipment required to receive telecasts?	ACMA	04.02/10
111.	ECA84	Abetz	Al-Manar Do these broadcasts only go into the east coast of Australia, including Melbourne and Sydney?	ACMA	04.02/10
112.	ECA85	Abetz	Al-Manar (i) Were all the programs during that nine-day period reviewed in-depth, with detailed translations? (ii) How many hours were subjected to a detailed translation?	ACMA	04.02/10
113.	ECA89	Ludlam	Cybersaftey Provide us with a figure in 2009 dollars of the total amount that ACMA has spent since 1999—in the last 10 years—on internet content regulation, specifically maintenance of the blacklist.	ACMA	12/01/10
114.	ECA92	Wortley	Cybersaftey - consequences Are you able to provide additional information or point me to some research on the real life consequences of sever and on going cyberbullying?	ACMA	25/01/10
115.	ECA92	MacDonald	SweetFM and LAP variations Are you having staff resourcing difficulties in dealing with these applications for variation of LAPs?	ACMA	25/01/10
116.	ECA93	Lundy	Advertising targeting children Can you (i) update the committee on what developments have taken place within the industry code. For example, I know Free TV have made some efforts in the past—or claim to have made some efforts in the past—to tighten up their code of practice with respect to advertising targeting children. (ii) Provide correspondence relating to those undertakings or progress made by the Food and Grocery Council and indeed Free TV.	ACMA	25/01/10

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117.	ECA95	Lundy	Spam Act Are you able to provide the committee with a list of those who have been found to formally breach the Spam Act?	ACMA	03/02/10
118.	Written	Bernardi	Broadcasting Codes of Practice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has ACMA received a proposed revision of the Commercial Television Code of Practice from Free TV Australia for consideration for registration? 2. Noting that both ACMA, in its review of reality television and this committee in its inquiry into the effectiveness of broadcasting codes have recommended that the code of practice require licensees to treat as formal complaints those received by email and other electronic means, will ACMA give an assurance that no new code of practice for commercial television will be registered unless it contains such a provision? 3. Will ACMA give an assurance that no new code of practice for commercial television will be registered unless it applies the same classification time zones to all services including multi-channels? 4. Will ACMA give an assurance that no new code of practice for commercial television will be registered if it seeks to lower the standard for "sex and nudity" in the MA and AV classifications? 5. Will ACMA give an assurance that no new code of practice for commercial television will be registered if it seeks to loosen the rules on promotions for higher classified programs during or adjacent to the broadcast of lower classified programs? 6. Will ACMA give an assurance that no new code of practice for commercial television will be registered if it fails to comply with the provisions of Section 123 (3B) of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 regarding material that goes beyond the previous "AO" classification criteria? 7. Can you please detail ACMA's response to the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee report into the effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice (which was released on 19 June 2008)? 	ACMA	08/02/10
119.	Written	Birmingham	ACMA Integrated Public Number Database (IPND) Scheme When did the roll-out for emergency services of the Integrated Public Number Database (IPND) begin? Which emergency service agencies or organisations have been granted access? Are there timeframes, and if so please outline, as to when emergency service agencies and organisations can expect to have complete access to the IPND on a permanent basis (as opposed to trial form, for example)? How much funding is being allocated to any education campaigns in relation to the IPND? Is there a competitive tender process in relation to such education campaigns and, if so and not already underway, when is this due to begin? Who will be eligible?	ACMA	08/02/10
120.	Written	Minchin	ACMA – Children's TV standards The ACMA finalised the new children's television standard and retain the status quo in relation to junk food advertising.	ACMA	25/01/10

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			<p>You decided: “to maintain its preliminary view not to implement further general restrictions on food advertising under the new standards. Having considered the available evidence, the ACMA remains of the view that the association between food advertising and obesity is modest. In addition, there is currently only limited evidence into the benefits of banning food and beverage advertising.”</p> <p>This was contrasted by the recommendations of the Preventative Health Taskforce to: “Reduce exposure of children and others to marketing, advertising, promotion and sponsorship of energy-dense nutrient-poor foods and beverages”</p> <p>Did the Preventative Health Taskforce consult the ACMA in the preparation of their Report, given your expertise in this area and previous studies on the international evidence regarding junk food advertising? Has anyone from the Government or Taskforce contacted you since the publication of the Taskforce report to discuss your view?</p>		
121.	Written	Minchin	<p>ACMA - Emergency Call Service Determination Has the Telecommunications (Emergency Call Service) Determination 2009 been finalised? When does/will it take effect? How many callers need to be asked for their location when making an emergency call? Is it technically possible for the caller location to be identified when making emergency calls irrespective of whether the call is from a handset which does not allow the display of the incoming call details ie number? The National Emergency Communications Working Group made a submission on the draft determination and raised concerns in relation to caller location and VOIP services. How has the Government responded to the concerns raised by NECWG in their submission? Were any of these concerns addressed in the formulation of the draft determination published after the consultation period? Also were their concerns addressed in relation to new services and the lack of requirement for them to be able to make and carry emergency calls?</p>	ACMA	08/02/10
122.	Written	Minchin	<p>ACMA- Spectrum How is the Greenpaper on the ‘digital dividend’ spectrum progressing? Is this being handled by the ACMA or Department What role is ACMA playing? Do you know how close it is to release and finalisation? When does the ACMA need certainty about the policy intent so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place for any necessary re-stacking to coincide with the digital television switch-over? What lead time is required to implement any re-stacking? There has been speculation in the media about the value of the spectrum – does the ACMA have an estimate of the value? Was the ACMA consulted on the legislation introduced by the Government that would prevent Telstra accessing certain spectrum unless a structural separation undertaking was in</p>	ACMA	08/02/10

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			place?		
123.	Written	Minchin	<p>ACMA – Al Manar Television</p> <p>Is it possible to determine how many households have access to Al-Manar in Australia?</p> <p>If you had found a breach of the anti-terrorism standard, what penalties are open to you?</p> <p>Would legislation be required to prohibit the broadcast of Al-Manar in Australia?</p> <p>Does the ACMA have the expertise to analyse content for links to terrorism? Do you seek input from AFP or other government agencies?</p> <p>When I asked the Minister about this issue during Question Time, he indicated that you had been asked to keep the situation under watch – when was this request made?</p> <p>How are you monitoring the situation and the Al-Manar broadcasts? Is this regular, intermittent, or random sampling?</p>	ACMA	08/02/10
124.	Written	Minchin	<p>ACMA- Digital Switchover</p> <p>As the awareness of digital television increases, so to does the number of households/communities that have reception problems</p> <p>Have you had many complaints about digital reception issues?</p> <p>Do you know when the satellite discussion paper will be released?</p> <p>What are you doing to identify blackspots?</p>	ACMA	08/02/10