

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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Question: SBT 188

Topic: Reports on economic and social benefits of broadband

Senator Cameron asked:

**Senator CAMERON**—Minister Conroy, during his answers to questions, talked about a number of overseas reports about not only the economic but also the social benefits of broadband. Has the ACCC had a look at any of those reports?

**Mr Cosgrave**—To the best of my understanding, no, but I will need to take it on notice because I am not quite sure of each of the reports that the senator was referring to in his evidence.

**Answer:**

The ACCC seeks to keep abreast of development in the telecommunications sector and as such reviews a wide range of international publications.

Minister Conroy specifically referred to an Access Economics – IBM fibre-to-the-node study (Hansard reference: 19 October 2010, EC114). The ACCC is aware of the report but has not considered it in detail as it is not directly relevant to the ACCC's regulatory functions.