

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates May 2017
Communications Portfolio
The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 167

The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Written, 06/06/2017

Topic: New Zealand content

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

Noting New Zealand content qualifies as Australian for the purposes of the Australian Content Standard, and Screen Producers Australia wrote to the then Minister for Communications on 13 March 2015 outlining options to close the New Zealand content loophole in the Australian Content Standard

- (a) has the Government considered any of the options set out in that letter?
 - i. If yes, please provide evidence of how the Government has considered each option, including any correspondence from the Government to Screen Producers Australia.

Answer:

As this question on notice relates to policy matters, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has sought advice from the Department of Communications and the Arts, who have responded as follows:

“On 13 March 2015, Matthew Deaner, CEO of Screen Producers Australia (SPA) wrote to the then Minister for Communications with concerns about the amount of first-release New Zealand programs being broadcast by commercial free-to-air broadcasters for the purposes of meeting their obligations under the Broadcasting Services (Australian Content) Standard 2005.

The Department prepared advice for the Minister’s consideration, including on the options presented in SPA’s letter.

The Minister for Communications replied to SPA on 20 August 2015 noting that the Government did not consider any need for regulatory amendment at this time, but will continue to monitor the issue.”