Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 362

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Hansard Ref: Written, 14/07/2017

Topic: Technology solutions – NT Senator McKenzie, Bridget asked:

Will the ABC provide the Committee with an unredacted copy of the full Transmission Strategy Paper referred to in its answer, notwithstanding the assertion that the paper refers to matters outside the scope of the shortwave issue, so the Committee is able to make its own assessment in terms of relevance and gain full appraisal of all relevant aspects of this matter.

Answer:

No. In the interests of maintaining good governance, including the need to ensure the Board can continue to receive unfettered advice and recommendations on matters for their decision, the ABC does not consider that confidential ABC Board Minutes are appropriate for disclosure.

In the course of the Senate Committee's Inquiry into the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment (Rural and Regional Advocacy) Bill 2015*, the ABC provided the Committee with a redacted copy of the briefing presentation given to the board in October 2016 on ABC shortwave. No other documents were provided to the Board other than the confidential board decision paper which also contains internal deliberations and is not appropriate for disclosure.