

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

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Question No. 108

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

- a) Does EMA have a view on whether or not a portion of the 7-800MHz band should be reserved for PSAs (public safety agencies)?
- b) Are there arguments for and against reserving that spectrum – can you expound them? For example, is there validity to the argument that any such spectrum should go to commercial operators to be bought back by public safety agencies?
- c) Does EMA have a view on whether or not that portion should be in the 7-800MHz band or the 8-900MHz band?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a-c) The Commonwealth Government is committed to supporting the needs of our public safety agencies. The Government considers the most effective and efficient option for meeting the national mobile broadband needs of our public safety agencies is likely to include an allocation of spectrum from the 800 Megahertz band. The Government has established a multi-jurisdictional Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, to develop a plan to equip Australia's public safety agencies with a reliable and robust mobile broadband capability. The Committee is required to report to the Standing Council for Police and Emergency Management by 29 February 2012.