

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2021-22 – 15 FEBRUARY 2022

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

| QoN No. | Portfolio QoN No. | Department /Agency | Senator | Title | Question | Transcript Page |
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| 1 | SQ22-000105 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - EDV Incidents - Data | <p>Senator URQUHART: I might go to Mr Graham and, Mr Di Bartolomeo, if you want to jump in you can, but I will have some for you in a moment. Can I just start by asking a few questions about the Swiss-made electric vehicles which Australia Post uses to deliver the mail and parcels-the three-wheeler ones, specifically. How many incidents of tip-overs or rollovers have occurred in the last 12, 24 and 36 months?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, these are what we call the eDVs. They are electric vehicles. I don't have those exact numbers, but I can get those numbers for you. We'll take that on notice. Suffice to say that the rollout of those vehicles continues. They are sourced from Switzerland. We are also working with a local Australian manufacturer and we hope to deploy those vehicles in April. There have been some delays with those due to COVID[....]</p> <p>[...] Senator URQUHART: In relation to the information that you're taking on notice, can you also provide on notice a breakdown of the incidents by state and territory, including how many incidents have resulted in lost time injury if there have been any in that category?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, certainly. We'll have that detail.</p> | 4 |
| 2 | SQ22-000106 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - EDV Incidents - Investigator | <p>Senator URQUHART: Has the regulator formally conducted their own investigation into any of the incidents?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I would have to validate that and come back to you. As far as I'm aware, none of the incidents resulted in serious injury. Obviously any injury is one too many. [...]</p> <p>[...] Senator URQUHART: Who's the third-party investigator?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I'd have to get that for you. We use a number of agencies to validate.</p> | 5 |
| 3 | SQ22-000107 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - EDV Incidents - Cause | <p>Senator URQUHART: I think you said earlier that in almost every case rider error was not identified as a cause. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Graham: No. I'd have to look at the data itself. I think there is a combination of issues-environmental issues, other traffic, driver training. There is a range of issues and they would be covered by the reports.</p> | 5 |

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| | | | | | Senator URQUHART: Could you take that on notice? Mr Graham: Certainly. | |
| 4 | SQ22-000108 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - EDV Incidents - Technical Advice | Senator URQUHART: Have you received technical advice about the centre of gravity perhaps being too high? Mr Graham: No, we haven't. Not that I'm aware, but again I will validate that's the case. As I say, these bikes are new to the market, new to Australia, and we're in that initial rollout phase and taking feedback. | 5 |
| 5 | SQ22-000109 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - Workers Compensation - Examiners | Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm that Australia Post is now using New Zealand based independent medical examiners to assess workers' compensation claims? Mr Graham: I'm not aware of that. I can take that on notice. We have a range of providers that do that. Senator PRATT: Would it be appropriate to use New Zealand- Mr Graham: I would have to understand the circumstances why, if indeed they were, chosen. Senator URQUHART: If you could take that on notice that would be great. | 5-6 |
| 6 | SQ22-000112 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - Remuneration - Benchmarking | Senator URQUHART: Has the board conducted any independent process to assure itself that these bonuses paid for financial year 2021 constitute value for money? Do you benchmark against other industries? Mr Di Bartolomeo: Yes, we certainly do. We have independent benchmarking occurring against other industries and we set remuneration levels to attract the quality people that we believe are in our organisation. Our packages, generally speaking, lie in the bottom and second quartiles, generally below medium, and certainly no- one is above medium. We believe we are placing remuneration packages that are good enough to attract the people we want, but we're certainly not leading the field. Senator URQUHART: I'm happy for you to take it on notice, but can you provide us with the industries that you benchmark against? My understanding is that the government thinks these are bonuses, but the chair doesn't. Minister, do you consider these to be bonuses? | 10 |
| 7 | SQ22-000148 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - Services - Broadening | Senator URQUHART: We are very conscious of time. I'll put the rest on notice, but if you can provide a little bit information about broadening your services on notice that would be good. I have a few other questions but I'm happy to put them on notice. | 13 |
| 8 | SQ22-000113 | Australian Postal Corporation | Canavan, Matthew; Hanson- | AUS POST - Market share - Online Delivery | Senator CANAVAN: Perhaps we can take this up another time, but I'm hearing feedback that, notwithstanding, yes, you're right as to Australia Post's extensive network, the restrictions on not being able to offer delivery to other entities is restricting the market share or services offered by post offices themselves. | 14 |

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| | | | Young, Sarah | | <p>Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe the agreements you have with LPOs restrict them from entering into any third-party agreements in that sense? Maybe on notice, could you take for me what is Australia Post's market share of online delivery packages, and how that has been tracking for the past five years?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And broken down into regional versus metro?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I believe we can. I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I think that would be helpful.</p> | |
| 9 | SQ22-000244 | Australian Postal Corporation | Canavan, Matthew | AUS POST - LPO Agreements | <p>Senator CANAVAN: Perhaps we can take this up another time, but I'm hearing feedback that, notwithstanding, yes, you're right as to Australia Post's extensive network, the restrictions on not being able to offer delivery to other entities is restricting the market share or services offered by post offices themselves.</p> <p>Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe the agreements you have with LPOs restrict them from entering into any third-party agreements in that sense? Maybe on notice, could you take for me what is Australia Post's market share of online delivery packages, and how that has been tracking for the past five years?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And broken down into regional versus metro?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I believe we can. I'll take it on notice.</p> | 14 |
| 10 | SQ22-000114 | Australian Postal Corporation | Hanson-Young, Sarah | AUS POST - Remuneration - Retention | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just quickly on the matter of bonuses-for the record I think lots of Australians, particularly those who work in aged care facilities right now, would just be gobsmacked that somebody on \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year is getting a bonus of \$170,000. I think that is out of touch. I think it proves that nothing has really been learnt from the last two years. I'd urge the Australia Post board to think a bit more clearly about the message they're sending, particularly when frontline workers are not the ones who are getting the bulk of that money. I did want to ask, however, about retention bonuses and whether there have been any retention bonuses paid both in the last 12 months but also in this financial year. Could we just get some clarity on that?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I would be happy to take that question. There were three retention bonuses paid in the last 12 months. They were paid to senior people in our network operations. That was just prior to my joining, but I was consulted on that. My view, very clearly, was that it was appropriate to retain those people. These skills are very, very difficult to find, both in the Australian market and indeed in the international market. They were being coaxed away by a major competitor, and I felt that the damage that their departure would have done would have been significant, and therefore the board approved the retention payment for those three individuals. It is not an unusual process to pay retention</p> | 14-15 |

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| | | | | | <p>when people are under threat of moving to a major competitor, but I felt in this particular case it was appropriate to do so given the skillset, given the complexity and nature of our business and the great difficulty in replacing those individuals in our business.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What were those retention bonuses worth?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I would have to take on record the actual specific detail, but they were paid over a period of, I believe, three years in single lump sums, in addition to the normal base salary that individual has. I'll provide the specific detail and take it on notice. [...]</p> <p>[...] Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have the figures there in front of you on how much?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I don't have the figures in front of me.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'd like you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We'll take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Both the total and the breakdown of each of the positions.</p> | |
| 11 | SQ22-000116 | Australian Postal Corporation | Hanson-Young, Sarah | AUS POST - Departures - Gender | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Out of your executives and senior management, how many women have left the roles over the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Mangos: When you look across the board and our leadership roles, we've got about 39 per cent of those leadership roles occupied by females. As to the number of women that have departed since-what period are we talking about?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The last 12 months.</p> <p>Ms Mangos: The last 12 months? I don't have that information.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Mangos: I will certainly take that on notice.</p> | 16 |
| 12 | SQ22-000117 | Australian Postal Corporation | Hanson-Young, Sarah | AUS POST - Remuneration - Gender | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In relation to the incentive payments, we've heard that the retention payments were given to five blokes. Out of the incentive payments, what has the gender split of that been as well?</p> <p>Mr Graham: That would reflect basically the management. We can provide that for you.</p> | 16 |
| 13 | SQ22-000118 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Hanson-Young, Sarah | Current Arts industry economic worth | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do we have a sense of what the industry is worth now, two years on? Prior to COVID the department's own figures were a worth of \$112 billion to the overall economy. Do you have any figures as to what the industry is worth now?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We haven't yet done that update to the satellite account. I'll have to get back to you on when that's due to be done, but it will be done.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It is in the works, is it?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes.</p> | 20 |

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| | | | | | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is that all being done within your department or are you relying on Treasury?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: It is being done by our bureau of economic research.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there a deadline for when we're meant to be able to see that?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I will have to get back to you.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We'll come back to you today on that.</p> | |
| 14 | SQ22-000119 | Office of the eSafety Commissioner | Pratt, Louise | eSafety - Planning and research into specific areas of online harms | <p>Senator PRATT: What research gaps are there in terms of research you're planning for and harms that haven't yet been analysed? Perhaps in that context I'll put my other questions. What research is happening in relation to online hate speech, including racial and religious radicalisation and any work done with Home Affairs or security agencies; sexual assaults facilitated by social media apps; eating disorders, which I think you've covered; and suicidal ideation?</p> <p>CHAIR: Are these to take on notice or-</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: We can take these on notice. I can also get a top line.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm happy for a top line answer.</p> | 31 |
| 15 | SQ22-000121 | Office of the eSafety Commissioner | Pratt, Louise | eSafety - Method used to inform on the working of algorithms and online harms | <p>Senator PRATT: Can you take on notice how you inform yourself on the workings of algorithms and online harms and how government informs itself and the extent to which you think there's a joined-up approach to research on online safety and if not, why not.</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Yes.</p> | 31-32 |
| 16 | SQ22-000123 | Office of the eSafety Commissioner | Urquhart, Anne | eSafety - Promotion on online safety to parents | <p>Senator URQUHART: There's low awareness amongst parents. How do you-when you say promotion, is it only promotion through your website, because then you've got to try and encourage parents to actually go to your website? What other promotion are you talking about?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Our media EDMs. There are obviously a range of NGOs that try and reach parents. Parents are probably the hardest cohort to reach. To be honest, 95 per cent of parents say that online safety is a pre-eminent concern, but only 10 per cent will actually go seek it. Parents are very busy these days. We're not creeping into people's lounge rooms to tell them how to do this, obviously.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand. Maybe you can take on notice a bit more detail, if you could, around how you are promoting that to parents.</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Sure, we're happy to.</p> | 32 |
| 17 | SQ22-000208 | Office of the eSafety Commissioner | Pratt, Louise | eSafety - MOU's with state and territory law enforcement | <p>Senator PRATT: Can you put some of that information on notice in relation to the work that you've done with the other states and territories around that policy and the MOUs? That would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Dagg: Certainly</p> | 35 |

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| 18 | SQ22-000126 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Government awareness of SCREEN fund underspend | <p>Senator URQUHART: I haven't looked at that. I want to ask about the extension of the SCREEN funding for independent cinemas which occurred at the end of last year. When did the government first become aware of a significant underspend of the initial \$20 million funding, and when was the first contact made by the industry to request that leftover money to be used for a new round of funding?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I can't give you the precise date, but the SCREEN Fund remained open for applications during that whole period; so it was available. We became aware that some cinemas required multiple grants, a second grant round, because their businesses hadn't returned to pre-COVID levels. The government announced on 23 December that there would be a second round of funding, which is currently underway.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay, so you're not sure of the date. Are you able to provide that to us?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I can see if I can find that.</p> | 38 |
| 19 | SQ22-000127 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Hanson-Young, Sarah | Recent on-site visits undertaken by the Prime Minister | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Minister, are you aware of any onsite visits that the Prime Minister has taken in recent months in terms of the creative industries? [...]</p> <p>[...] Senator Hume: If there are any other appointments in this sector that we become aware of, I will happily take that on notice and come back to the committee.</p> | 38-39 |
| 20 | SQ22-000137 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Pratt, Louise | auDA rules for registration of .au domains | <p>Senator PRATT: So you would be confident that it is an Australian entity. But its use is not limited to Australian entities only, is it?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That depends, in a sense, on the rules of the domain name administrator regarding what they expect of people looking to-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What would those rules be?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'd have to take on notice what the auDA rules are in terms of what they expect of someone who's in the .au space.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We can get you a copy of the rules.</p> | 51 |
| 21 | SQ22-000139 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Pratt, Louise | Number of Australian domain names with .au | <p>Senator PRATT: So how many Australian domain names have .au? Maybe you could take on notice how many have .com and .edu that have .au after them.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We can take that on notice for you.</p> | 51 |
| 22 | SQ22-000307 | Department of Infrastructure, | Pratt, Louise | Revenue for .au domain registrars | <p>Senator PRATT: How many websites are currently registered in the .com.au space? Are there estimates of how much revenue this creates for domain</p> | 51 |

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| | | Transport, Regional Development and Communications | | | operators annually? Ms Silleri: I don't have that information to hand, but I can get it for you on notice. | |
| 23 | SQ22-000141 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Pratt, Louise | Priority allocation process for .au domains | <p>Senator PRATT: What happens if a business doesn't get to the priority allocation process by 24 March?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: I'll need to take that process question on notice, but we can get that for you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What's the current process? You can do it via the priority allocation process. If I'm just used to re-registering my name when my domain provider tells me to, are they going to prompt me automatically? What happens?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: I'll take that on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You can't tell me?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We're very happy to get the information from auDA for you. But, given that we don't set these and are not in the day-to-day administering of the way that people get access to domain names, we'd have to go and talk to auDA to get that information.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I think it's a pretty big deal, if something goes awry, in terms of not being done effectively, because people could lose access to their domain name. You might have competing names already under .edu.com.au, and someone is going to want to get to the .au first. What happens in those circumstances?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We'll take that on notice. I think it does get down to the validation and verification process that auDA do before they allocate a domain name to somebody else, in consulting with the people who have an associated domain name.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is the department the observer on the board, or who is that observer?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: The department is an observer on the board; it's either me or Ms Silleri.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Nevertheless, you're still telling me that you don't know what happens if a business doesn't get in by 24 March. Has this not been discussed at the board level?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: Not at the board meetings that I've attended. That's a process type arrangement that will be set out; auDA will have guidance on it, and I'm happy to get that for you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What public interest type issues has the department raised and</p> | 51-52 |

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| | | | | | sought to ensure are effectively managed, in terms of your role on the board? Mr Windeyer: We will come back to you on notice with the range of considerations, including the public interest considerations, that have gone into- | |
| 24 | SQ22-000143 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Davey, Perin | New coverage under Mobile Black Spot Program | Senator DAVEY: That's across regional and remote areas. Do we have a state breakdown? I'll understand if you need to take this on notice. Obviously, I'm interested in regional New South Wales, and I'm sure that Senator Hanson-Young is interested in South Australia, so do we have a state-level breakdown of the increased service areas? Mr Smurthwaite: I can give you the number of base stations but not the breakdown by kilometres. I could take that on notice for you. Senator DAVEY: Yes. | 59 |
| 25 | SQ22-000144 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Pratt, Louise | Telecommunications going down during WA Bushfires - Donnybrook , Boyup Brook and Corrigin | Senator PRATT: What happened in the case of telecommunications going down in Donnybrook and Boyup Brook in the Western Australian bushfires recently; and why was the Corrigin phone line down for days, particularly noting the rollout of all these innovations? Senator McKenzie: I can answer that question. That's a matter for the telecommunication provider itself, Telstra. I'm happy to contact Telstra and get that answer to you within the next 24 hours. Senator PRATT: Okay. In that context, are any of those locations on your list of places that need backup power or remediation? It's great to hear about these solutions but, if you don't know where the problem is- Senator McKenzie: We've done a lot of mapping to that extent. Senator PRATT: Is Corrigin on the list? Mr Paterson: We'll have to take that on notice. | 60 |
| 26 | SQ22-000146 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Pratt, Louise | List of locations vulnerable to telecommunications outages | Senator PRATT: No; I don't want the locations receiving funding; I want to know where the vulnerabilities are. Senator McKenzie: She wants the locations that have the need. I think that's determined in different ways. Mr Paterson: I'll have to take that on notice. I'm not sure that we have a list as such. We'll look into it, Senator. | 60 |
| 27 | SQ22-000111 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | List of mastheads in each location | Senator URQUHART: I understand that. That was the correct answer. The department has provided the number and locations of newspapers but, given the amount of time that it has taken to get this far and given the minister has initiated a regional newspapers inquiry, will the department now table the full list of mastheads in each location? Ms Sullivan: I will talk to our colleagues. The Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research undertook that. I want to check with them in terms of the list. | 62 |

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| | | | | | <p>Mr Windeyer: We can certainly check. I suspect we will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr lu: We are happy to provide the list on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: In each location.</p> <p>Dr lu: Yes, in each location</p> | |
| 28 | SQ22-000115 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Neutral host roaming in regional and remote areas | <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry, maybe if I can add a little bit more, Mr Paterson. In what countries has the model appeared to have worked well? What market characteristics do those countries have? How does that contrast with the Australian environment?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: Good question. I will ask Mr Smurthwaite to help me a little. New Zealand is a classic example. They've had a radio access network or a RAN model in train now for quite a few years. It's been funded with assistance from the New Zealand government as well as some spectrum allocations. There are certain market characteristics in New Zealand which are a little bit different from Australia</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McKenzie: Not, because you don't have signal.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: It's less advanced in the UK. Again, they've got spots of no coverage, because of commercial reasons. They want to give customers a choice of provider, and this technology enables them to use the same bit of equipment, which means you can get multiple providers into those markets. For more detail than that, we will have to take it on notice. But I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Obviously New Zealand is much smaller, as I think you indicated. Are there other models? I am happy for you to take it on notice, but if there are other countries around that have the vastness at least?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: When people talk neutral host models, there are different types of radio access network or other models-you are correct-and then, depending on your approach, the black spots have always had that co-location model, which is the sharing of the infrastructure itself. Our estimates of the costs are a little bit higher if you do it that way.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand there are different ways that the neutral host can be implemented. One is for the neutral provider to have its own spectrum and service and offer a roaming service to mobile carriers. The operators would then lose end-to-end visibility of the network and aspects of the customer experience. The open RAN approach allows the neutral host to build and manage the physical components, with the mobile operator using software to provide a</p> | 64-65 |

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| | | | | | <p>service over the wireless interface. A third model, I think, is one where an existing mobile carrier chooses to become the neutral host itself, offering other carriers dynamic access to its network.</p> <p>So in terms of the Australian market and the economics of our industry, can you offer any reflections about which of these models, if any, has the best prospect in our domestic settings?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I'm going to add a fourth model, where actually you might run a neutral host RAN model on a base station but you might have another carrier who would like to access that base station and put their own equipment on it. So you could actually run a standard set of transmission equipment from one carrier and have another two carriers sharing a RAN network because sometimes-</p> | |
| 29 | SQ22-000120 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Lines, Sue | Albany Highway - Almost zero mobile coverage | <p>Senator LINES: Senator McKenzie, often you talk about black spots and how you fix them. I am just wondering if someone can tell us about Albany Highway in Western Australia, between Albany and Perth, where you've got almost zero mobile coverage and what's happening there?</p> <p>Senator McKenzie: Thank you. I'm sure someone has got some information on WA specifically. If we don't have it we will get it to you.</p> <p>Senator LINES: I just want Albany Highway.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We'll see if Mr Smurthwaite has got some information; otherwise we'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator LINES: I am sure Rick Wilson must have raised it. It's shocking.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: But highways are-</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Just while Mr Smurthwaite is looking for some information we'll see what we've got. One thing I just point out, which is just to observe there, is that many of the programs you run today end up being driven by the choices made by the applicants about where they wish to apply for. So they're sort of two questions:</p> <p>have we seen applications for coverage on the highway; and then whether we've actually then found that they met the criteria-</p> <p>Senator LINES: It is a major highway.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes, I understand that.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I actually know that area reasonably well. We've tried to focus some of our criteria under recent programs more on highways because the economics of highways are that a carrier will tend to choose the locality with premises when they apply. So we've been trying to push these highways, which ideally are suited for neutral host models as well. If you are a tourist you want to be able to use your phone, whoever your carrier is. So we have been trying to drive that recently through program design. Did we have anything on Albany?</p> | 66-67 |

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| | | | | | Mr Smurthwaite: I can only give you by state. That's the lowest breakdown. Senator LINES: Just take it on notice. Senator McKenzie: Rick Wilson has raised this with us, and we built a lot along that particular route. I'll take that on notice | |
| 30 | SQ22-000124 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Unreleased ACMA report | Senator URQUHART: Given there's a federal election coming up, and given that Australia's in the midst of a health pandemic which has been characterised by misinformation, can you tell me why the government won't release the report as a matter of urgency? Minister, you might be able to answer that one. Senator McKenzie: I'll take that on notice | 69 |
| 31 | SQ22-000128 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | EY Cost on engaging SAU process & submission | Senator URQUHART: Whom have you engaged, at what cost, and why? Mr Windeyer: We have engaged EY. I will take this on notice and get for you at what cost. This is not to advise NBN; it is solely for the purpose of advising the department. In a sense, it is to make sure that we have expertise we can tap into to understand the consequences or the effect of the things that are being considered by either the ACCC or the NBN. | 72 |
| 32 | SQ22-000129 | Special Broadcasting Service Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | SBS - Any services to translate the Uluru statement | CHAIR: I'm going to ask one question today, which you might take on notice. I'm wondering whether you've provided any services to translate the Uluru statement. Is it in any of your languages? Mr Taylor: Yes, Senator. We have indeed. We did last year. We translated it as a text file in over 60 languages and this year we updated it with a video in all of those languages. That one small act has been met with incredible support from communities and high engagement. If I could extend my answer, because I think it's on the same theme, you will note that we've been expanding our services in SBS On Demand so there are much deeper content repositories in multiple languages. You can create user ID in five languages plus English now. What I've been struck by is that people whose first language is not English are consuming significantly more First Nations content than people whose first language is English. That speaks to what we see across the network-a real desire for multicultural Australians to connect with First Nations culture and storytelling. That's fundamental for us because we sit at the crossroads of the oldest continuing cultures and some of Australia's newest citizens. CHAIR: If you could provide some of that on notice, that would be great. We thank you very much for your time and for being here this afternoon | 76 |
| 33 | SQ22-000130 | Australian Communications | Urquhart, Anne | ACMA - Broader online safety bill | Senator URQUHART: I wanted to ask about the nature of the powers of other jurisdictions. You said that in some areas it's legislative and in other areas it's | 77 |

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| | | and Media Authority | | | <p>voluntary. Are you able to give me a breakdown on that?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I would probably need to take that on notice, Senator. But, again, it is a live discussion. There is a lot of work being done in the United Kingdom at the moment on a broader online safety bill. Of course, we already have the new Online Safety Act. But the UK is looking at what framework is best to sit around platforms for things like safety and misinformation. The European Union, as I mentioned, have their voluntary code in place, and that's being updated and revised. We are also aware of the Canadian broadcasting regulator and, indeed, the Canadian government, who is looking at legislative approaches around digital platforms, mainly in the area of things like local content. I will ask Cathy if she has anything to add.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: No. I'm afraid I don't have any more specific details, but we're happy to take that on notice.</p> | |
| 34 | SQ22-000131 | Australian Communications and Media Authority | Urquhart, Anne | ACMA - Complaints ACMA received in 12 months | <p>Senator URQUHART: How many complaints has the ACMA received under the standards in the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Under the antiterrorism standards, I'm not aware that we have received any. I think our colleague Rochelle Zurnamer is on videoconference. If she's there, I will check with her.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: It doesn't look like she's there</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I'm reasonably confident that we haven't, but I'm happy to take that on notice for you, Senator.</p> | 78-79 |
| 35 | SQ22-000132 | Australian Communications and Media Authority | Urquhart, Anne | ACMA - self-help retransmission policy changes | <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry-and maybe you could add what, if any, changes or updates were actually made in 2021.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We did make a number of updates. The retransmission policy generally is around getting services to communities who may not be able to get services from their existing broadcasters who are too far away and we can't get a signal in. So the retransmission policy is designed to allow operators to retransmit somebody else's signal or their own signal into different communities-for example, around mining settlements. But I will ask Ms Caruso to address that and also changes we made in 2021.</p> <p>Ms Caruso: There is a number of our broadcasting planning documents that we have been in the process of updating, so the retransmission policy was one of those broadcast planning documents that we looked at. For a range of reasons, some of those documents had not been changed or updated since pre digital television days and so some of what we were doing was covering both on the TV and the radio side. There were, I'll say, some old TV planning references that were no longer valid, so we updated the documents for that. On the radio side, we had also undertaken a body of work with the industry around the future</p> | 79-80 |

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| | | | | | <p>delivery of radio and we were reflecting our planning priorities in that future delivery of radio also in the retransmission policy. I can take it on notice to provide more details about the exact changes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That would be really good, yes.</p> <p>Ms Caruso: I know we did highlight that on our website; I just haven't got that detail here today. It was largely a recognition that it was at a point in time. Some of the technology delivery had changed. The policy environment and our planning priorities had also changed. So it was one of a number of broadcasting planning documents that we have done some housekeeping on.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay, thank you. If you could provide some extra details on notice, that would be great. Can you tell me how the government's response to the green paper and the new broadcast working group factor in ACMA work on retransmission?</p> | |
| 36 | SQ22-000134 | Australian Communications and Media Authority | Urquhart, Anne | ACMA - Broadcasting retransmission licenses list | <p>Senator URQUHART: So it's broader than the retransmission. According to the most recent ACMA annual report, you issued 76 broadcasting retransmission licences in 2020-21. Is this list publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: My understanding is that that is licensing information; it is all publicly available.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Would you be able to provide it on notice?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: Sure</p> | 80 |
| 37 | SQ22-000135 | Australian Communications and Media Authority | Urquhart, Anne | ACMA - Carrier & line of revenue business generate | <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes. For my benefit, can you provide some detail about what a carrier technically is and isn't, and can you provide some examples of what line of revenue a business generates in the telecommunications space that does not require them to hold a carrier licence?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I would prefer to take that on notice. I don't have the full detail here. It is quite a complex legal and technical issue, so I would prefer to take it on notice, if we may, please.</p> | 81 |
| 38 | SQ22-000136 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - RBAH issue & cost | <p>Senator URQUHART: Will that enable the ABC to deliver more audio description than is currently the case? How many hours will be delivered?</p> <p>Ms Anderson: It allows us to continue the service that we've got at the moment. Again, we welcome the decision to extend audio description funding specifically. At the moment we aim to provide a service that is 14 hours a week. At the moment my statistics show us that on average we are overachieving on that by a little bit. It allows us to continue to do that. It is very important for people who are blind or visually impaired to have that service. We're very happy to be able to keep providing it.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Great. What about funding to cover the maintenance of self-help retransmitters? Did the government supply the ABC with funding to</p> | 85 |

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| | | | | | cover this cost? Ms Anderson: Senator, I think you're referring to the RBAH issue. And, no, that's an example of rising costs for the ABC over time. I believe that to be in the order of, and I can confirm it on notice, approximately \$600,000 per annum that we needed to find to cover that cost that we weren't previously covering | |
| 39 | SQ22-000138 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - Statement of expectations | Senator URQUHART: Now I want to turn to the statement of expectations. In the minister's media release on 7 February he said that he: ...has today written to the ABC and SBS outlining their three-year funding packages, and issued Statements of Expectations regarding the reporting by the two organisations in relation to a number of their key activities-including a new National Broadcasters Reporting Framework for Australian Content, and, in the case of the ABC, its rural and regional activities. Mr Anderson, has the minister for communications ever issued a statement of expectations to the ABC? Ms Anderson: I'll have to take that on notice. I do recall former Minister Fifield, I think, sending something similar to the ABC. Of course, I wasn't managing director. I think out of the efficiency review under Malcolm Turnbull one of the recommendations had reference to a statement of expectations. It is something that has, in my recollection, been raised before. Again, I'll confirm that on notice for you. I don't want to say something that I'm not confident in. | 85-86 |
| 40 | SQ22-000140 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - ABC Friends to use the ABC logo | CHAIR: Okay. I want to ask you about something a bit different here, which is in relation to ABC Friends. Have you authorised ABC Friends to use the ABC logo? Mr Anderson: No. We were alerted towards the end of last week that there was ABC Friends, a particular community group, that advocate for the ABC. It's a longstanding arrangement, but that's generally what they've done. We do have rules when it comes to use of the ABC logo, particularly around election campaigns, and we do enforce that. For those other groups such as Friends, if they're embarking on a political campaign, they also need to also abide by those rules and not use our ABC logo when doing it. CHAIR: So they can't use it? Mr Anderson: They can't use it for a political campaign, no. There is information on our website- CHAIR: But aren't they campaigning against the coalition now using this logo? Mr Anderson: We have been in contact with ABC Friends since that was brought to our attention. CHAIR: Okay. Senator ABETZ: What have you said to them? | 88 |

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| | | | | | <p>Mr Anderson: We've said to them that they need to abide by the rules that we've got that apply to the political parties, which say that they cannot use the ABC logo in a political campaign.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Have they agreed not to use it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not sure I have seen a response back from them. We've been in touch with them both by letter and verbally.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you please provide that information on notice to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> | |
| 41 | SQ22-000142 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew; Abetz, Eric | ABC - Number of investigations | <p>CHAIR: I just ask in closing that you provide some examples on notice of where enforcement action has been taken. I don't mind if you conceal the particular cases, but we need to see some examples of how the code is being enforced.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: To set expectations: I will not give you individual names because-</p> <p>CHAIR: I didn't ask for that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, but I'm just saying that I can give you the number of investigations that have been undertaken as a result.</p> <p>CHAIR: Okay.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can we also have beyond that not just the investigations but the outcomes and enforcement, because that is what seems to be lacking? You always investigate, talk to people and write to ABC Friends, but you never have the undertakings.</p> | 88-89 |
| 42 | SQ22-000147 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - Hours and time on Estimates QoNS | <p>Senator URQUHART: The ABC provides transparency reporting in a range of ways which is obviously necessary for accountability. But do you have an estimate of how many hours you spend in estimates hearings every year; and can you provide an idea of how many QONs you answer each year for, say, the last three years? It's a lot of transparency though.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Someone for fun did count how many hours in estimates last year, and I think it was 13 or 14 hours that I spent giving evidence. And, as for the QONs, there might be 100 QONs of which there are subquestions that sit within it. That is a lot of time taken answering a lot of questions.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you want to provide a more detailed response, I'm happy to take that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll provide it on notice for you.</p> | 91-92 |
| 43 | SQ22-000149 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Response to Ministerial correspondence | <p>Senator ABETZ: Was the Foreign Correspondent dealing with the Falun Gong flagged with the board at all?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It wouldn't have been.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Are you aware that a member of parliament wrote to you, Mr Anderson, on 1 September concerning that program?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't recall that.</p> | 92-93 |

Senator ABETZ: That letter was on 14 September 2020, and the same MP then wrote to you again on 5 September 2021 asking for a response: 'I again ask that you investigate this matter to determine whether, in the view of ABC board and management, the Foreign Correspondent-Background Briefing investigation about Falun Gong met the required standards of objective journalism.' Are you aware of that letter?

Mr Anderson: I'm sorry, Senator; I don't recall. I get many, many letters. But Mr McMurtrie might remember.

Senator ABETZ: The MP asked that the response go directly to the constituent. The constituent finally got a response on 17 November 2021: 'I am responding on behalf of the ABC,' signed by Kirstin McLiesh. But the letter said, 'I write in response to your letters to'-and guess who the MP was? The Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon. Paul Fletcher. So there are two letters to you, personally signed by the minister, asking the board to investigate or comment on something, and the arrogance of the ABC-and yourself, with respect-to dismiss that correspondence from the minister and flick it off-do you have any explanation for the minister, the member for Bradfield, and for the constituents?

Mr Anderson: No, other than to say I get many letters that are passed on by MPs and their constituents.

Senator ABETZ: The minister who is responsible for the ABC might actually excite some interest, do you think-or not?

Mr Anderson: Certainly-

Senator ABETZ: Or just dismissed.

Mr Anderson: No. We treat all those letters that come to us on their merits.

Senator ABETZ: No response in 11 months-is that indicative of the merits of the minister's letter to you? Is that what you're telling this committee?

Mr Anderson: No.

Senator ABETZ: So what was the merit, therefore-following on from your answer-of the minister's letter to you that required 11 months of nonresponse and a further letter from him? Was it such a poorly-worded letter that you just couldn't understand it or you didn't know who it was from? What was the merit?

Mr Anderson: I don't recall the letter, but the way these letters come to me is: the minister passes on a letter from his constituents, and we look at it to see whether it is to be treated as a complaint-in which case, it will go to our complaints area. I correspond-

Senator ABETZ: But, if the minister asks you to refer it to the board, you just

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| | | | | | <p>dismiss it and send it off, like everybody else, to the complaints area. Wouldn't you at least respond to the minister and say, 'I don't think it's appropriate for the board' or give some answer?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Chair, could we have a copy of the letter tabled, so we can see what it looks like?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I have one of the letters here. Can you take all that detail on notice and provide an explanation-and might I be so gratuitous as to suggest an apology</p> <p>.....</p> | |
| 44 | SQ22-000271 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Reporting on the Bell v Tavistock case | <p>Senator ABETZ:Moving on: it has been suggested to me that the ABC failed to report on the Bell v Tavistock case, a landmark case in the UK, where the High Court found that under-16 children cannot consent to puberty blockers. Are you aware that the ABC didn't report on that at all? It's a fairly fundamental, important, groundbreaking case.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm unaware of the case, let alone whether or not we reported on it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you provide some explanation? I would have thought the UK Supreme Court making a determination such as that might be fairly important news in the content of the discussion that's taking place in Australia.</p> <p>I am told that, between 2018 and 2021, the ABC published 30 articles and interviews about transgender weightlifter Laurel Hubbard. Only one article gave voice to women's concerns about safety and fairness. Do we think that's balance?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take a look at that for you</p> | 93 |
| 45 | SQ22-000150 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - ABC routinely interviews transwomen | <p>Senator ABETZ: The ABC routinely interviews transwomen-that is, males-about whether it is fair and safe for them to play in women's sport. The ABC have never interviewed a female sportswoman on the question; is that also correct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Take it on notice. Just to show how broad ranging the support I have in the community is: this is a document that, Senator Pratt will be very interested to learn, is from a left-leaning feminist women's group, expressing their concern about the ABC</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm glad they're glad to have you in their corner!</p> | 93-94 |
| 46 | SQ22-000151 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Four Corners episode 'Inside the Canberra bubble' | <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, we have-to the Four Corners episode 'Inside the Canberra bubble'. I asked some questions on notice. For question No. 4390, an answer was provided: 'Mr Bornstein has dealt for many years with issues of sexual harassment and power imbalances between men and women in the workplace. He was making uncontroversial observations and is a respected and highly-</p> | 94 |

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| | | | | | <p>sought-after lawyer. He was there as a general commentator.' The program just happened to overlook the fact that he's a member of the Australian Labor Party, having sought Labor endorsement and, I understand, is again seeking it-but that's irrelevant for the purpose of that particular interview. Any explanation as to why that was left out?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. I didn't know that about him.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Take it on notice and try to cobble together an explanation. Allow me to move on. He's described here as 'respected and highly sought after, dealing with issues of sexual harassment and power imbalances'. How's this for a crack: he refers to a female trade union official as 'a dog who has misplaced her chew toy' and 'a poodle snapping at my heels'. Another quote: 'Personally, I think Penny Wong would make a very fine Morticia.' That shows a wonderful respect for women, doesn't it-a man who has a wonderful record, worthy of the ABC's endorsement, as a person who is respected and who has dealt with issues of sexual harassment and power imbalances. Where does the ABC get off on this sort of stuff? You don't mention he's a Labor lawyer, you don't mention his antecedents and you try to dress him up in an answer to me as though he's cleaner than the driven snow, worthy of questioning on the ABC-a bit of balance! Take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take it on notice. If someone is in something that is to do with politicians and is being interviewed, and somehow is part of a political party, then, yes, we should acknowledge that.</p> | |
| 47 | SQ22-000152 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Interview with Mr Bornstein | <p>Senator ABETZ: Can I move on in relation to the interview with Mr Bornstein. I was told this took place on 29 September 2020, in Melbourne, as I understand it. If I am correctly informed, that was during the lockdown period in Melbourne. The lockdown directions state, 'During the stay-at-home period, a person who ordinarily resides in the restricted area must not permit another person to enter the premises of which they ordinarily reside.' Can we have some explanation as to how the ABC were able to avoid the ALP lockdown laws in Victoria to do an interview with Mr Bornstein?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will confirm this to you on notice, but through those times we did seek exemptions for journalists to do journalism across those lockdown periods.</p> | 94 |
| 48 | SQ22-000154 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Hanson-Young, Sarah | ABC - underpayment-of-staff issue | <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did you have to do that work internally?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The PwC helped us with this. PwC have helped us previously and they help organisations with exactly this type of work. What it will come down to are arrangements we can put in place prospectively that are more suitable for the situations that I've described.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You're saying that 95 per cent of people-</p> | 95 |

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| | | | | | <p>Mr Anderson: Who had an underpayment owing to them have had that paid. I'll confirm that on notice, but that is what I understand.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Obviously, the percentage is good, but it would be good to know actually how many people we are talking about.</p> | |
| 49 | SQ22-000155 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - Underpayments will cost the ABC | <p>Senator URQUHART: I just want to follow on from some of the questions that Senator Hanson-Young asked about the underpayments. I don't know whether you can give me this information, but are you able to provide me with the general range of what the underpayments will cost the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll provide that to you on notice. We are still in consultation at the moment with regard to that. It's within our provisions at the moment, but I will provide that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That's good. Are you in a position to identify what the quantum of underpayments was in dollar terms?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That's what I was intending to provide to you on notice</p> | 96 |
| 50 | SQ22-000156 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - market allowance for ABC staff | <p>Senator URQUHART: What is the contingency in the event that the market allowance for staff can't be used to offset the underpayments?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: As I said, we are still in consultation with regard to fair work about that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What liability could the ABC face in this scenario, if that doesn't cover that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In dollar terms?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will confirm with you on estimates, but I think it's circa \$2 million.</p> | 96 |
| 51 | SQ22-000157 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - Investment to boost ABC's Pacific presence | <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. On 20 December 2021, Zoe Samios wrote an article in The Sydney Morning Herald entitled 'ABC plans to boost Pacific presence as China's shadow grows'. The article says: ABC managing director David Anderson has revealed the national broadcaster is preparing to step up its presence in the Asia-Pacific region significantly next year, more than seven years after its cable channel dedicated to the region was shuttered.</p> <p>What sort of step-up does the ABC have in mind and how will this be funded?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: There are one or two things. At the moment, I have a contract before me with DFAT which is renewing the Pacific Australian sports initiative. That means new content across the Pacific, which includes That Pacific Sports Show, which is very good news. In addition to that, after speaking to the minister for the Pacific as well as Minister Fletcher, we made a submission for additional investment for the ABC to have a greater presence across the Pacific. I will confirm this on notice, but that submission was just above \$12 million, and it was</p> | 96-97 |

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| | | | | | in discussion with both officers with regards to how we think that we can assist with regard to our presence through the Pacific region-the importance of having presence there, both reporting into and reporting out of-and that association with Australia is important. So that sits there. We will do what we can with what we have got anyway. We think it's an important place to be | |
| 52 | SQ22-000158 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | ABC - Difference between what used to be delivered under the Australian network and what it is delivered now | Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me what the key difference is between what the ABC used to deliver under the Australian network and what it delivers now? Mr Anderson: I will confirm with you on notice, but I remember the Australian network funding was about \$22 million. I know that we had about eight bulletins a day going in there from early in the morning. In addition to that, we had other correspondents throughout the Pacific that were reporting back. We had specific services going to them, sourcing news from the Pacific and playing that back to them. It was also available in Australia as well. That's what that service was doing, and it was there for a while until the funding stopped. Then we didn't have that anymore. | 97 |
| 53 | SQ22-000159 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Exemptions allowing journalists to undertake work during lockdown periods | Senator ABETZ: The exemption document to which you referred, Mr Anderson, about the lockdown, are you able to table that for us? Mr Anderson: I think there was an exemption for all media. There wasn't anything specific for us. But, certainly, I know that- Senator ABETZ: How were you notified of it? In writing? Mr Anderson: Look, I- Senator ABETZ: Anyway, if you can take it on notice and see what you can provide. Mr Anderson: I will take it on notice. | 98 |
| 54 | SQ22-000160 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Four Corners program 'Inside the Canberra Bubble' | Senator ABETZ: In relation to that Four Corners program 'Inside the Canberra Bubble', was a Ms Jo Dyer interviewed. She is now, I note, a candidate running against the coalition. At the time of the interview, was the ABC aware that Ms Dyer was also, at one time, a member of the ALP? Mr Anderson: Senator- Senator ABETZ: That's not mentioned, yet again, in the interview. Mr Anderson: I don't know- Senator ABETZ: Mr Bornstein not mentioned; Ms Dyer not mentioned- Mr Anderson: We'll take that on notice for you. | 98 |
| 55 | SQ22-000161 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Staff provided with work car | Senator ABETZ: Let's turn to another matter in relation to staff. Some ABC staff are provided with a car. Mr Anderson: I'll confirm on notice for you, but we stopped having people's employment with us- Senator ABETZ: Are some staff provided with a car? | 98-99 |

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| | | | | | <p>Mr Anderson: I think there are still a few left, grandfathered from a long time ago.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can they use that car privately?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My understanding is that if it is part of their employment, they can. There are not many left. We phased this out, and I'll confirm-</p> | |
| 56 | SQ22-000162 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Ms Milligan notification to ABC management | <p>Senator ABETZ: To come back to Ms Milligan and this fatuous assertion that the ABC received the notice from Dr Laming, it wasn't received by the ABC at all, was it, at 5.21 pm? It was in fact received by Ms Milligan on 5 May, and ABC management only found out about it because Ms Milligan told them.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. That's post investigation and in questions put to me. We've since found out that yes, that email was sent to Ms Milligan at her ABC email address and was then forwarded to ABC Legal.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but the concerns notice was received by the ABC at 5.21 pm on 5 May. That's not actually correct, is it? That's in answer to committee question No. 37. It was received by Ms Milligan, wasn't it, and she then-</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The information we've provided is the information I received. I'll follow up for you</p> | 99 |
| 57 | SQ22-000163 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Further information regarding the release of legal advice | <p>Senator ABETZ: Can I suggest to you it's incorrect and you are using the language that I exposed last time with the assertion that the ABC had received it when clearly the ABC had not? It was only Ms Milligan that had received it. But moving on to question No. 38 and its interesting answer; the second sentence is: It is not in the public interest for the ABC, or any other agency, organisation, entity or individual, to be compelled to disclose legal advice provided to it. I assume all ABC journalists are now going to hold very strictly to that when inquiries are made about legal advice provided to government. I just make that as a side comment. I'm sure they won't, and good on them. But if this is really the ABC's view of the world, you might like to ask your journalists to abide by the ABC view of the world.</p> <p>Coming to the snippets of disingenuous legal advice that were provided to us also in answer to question 38:</p> <p>Extract 1</p> <p>ABC's question: In light of the above context, the ABC wishes to understand its liability ...</p> <p>But you don't disclose the above context. So it's a meaningless answer, isn't it? And you, with your intellect, Mr Anderson, know that is the case; don't you? If the above context is not provided to the committee then the answer is for all intents and purposes quite meaningless.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If you would like further context to that, we can provide that on</p> | 99 |

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| | | | | | notice. What I will say to you is that there were elements of that advice that would otherwise provide a roadmap to those people that would want to provide the ABC harm or sue the ABC. That's why I don't want to release that entire legal advice, because it was given under legal professional privilege. It shows the vulnerabilities that the ABC had at that time, and it would otherwise have provided something to someone that could otherwise harm the ABC. | |
| 58 | SQ22-000164 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - total amount of legal roles at the ABC | <p>CHAIR: I want to ask about the lawyers at the ABC. We've asked about this before. I've asked about this in the past. In June 2021, the ABC said it had 26 in-house lawyers. At the last hearing, in November, you said you had 36. In response to a question on notice on 29 November last year, the ABC said it employed 28 in-house lawyers in the legal team, six lawyers in the people and culture team and 10 in the business affairs team. That would be 44. Can you give me a sense of what the actual number is and whether you've been on a lawyer hiring spree.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The specifics of the question are important. When I'm asked how many lawyers are in our ABC legal team the answer is 28. If I'm asked how many lawyers there are altogether-I got asked the number, including business affairs. Business affairs, which sits outside of the legal team, do television contracts, around commissioning and negotiating terms, and are separate to ABC Legal. We also have lawyers in industrial relations. I think we've got about three or four lawyers there.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: They're not mentioned here.</p> <p>CHAIR: What's the total?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll provide a total on notice for you. The important thing is we've got lawyers-I've got people in this room with me who are lawyers-</p> <p>CHAIR: I understand that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: but they're not doing a job that requires them to be a lawyer.</p> <p>CHAIR: How many are in legal roles? Maybe you can provide that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will provide you with an answer on the total amount of legal roles we have at the ABC.</p> | 100 |
| 59 | SQ22-000165 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - New and Current Affairs budget | <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, that's fine. I've only got five minutes. That's all I asked: whether it was on track. Could I invite you, especially as editor-in-chief, to read the Ajax submission to that. It's very, very informative. What's the news and current affairs budget for the ABC in dollar terms? Do we a figure on that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm on notice for you, but it's about \$210 million per annum.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So, \$210 million out of a \$1.1 billion budget is roughly 20 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Roughly.</p> | 102 |

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| 60 | SQ22-000166 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Abetz, Eric | ABC - Mr Stephens - cost to taxpayer regarding case settlement | <p>Senator ABETZ: I've asked questions in the past in relation to Mr Stephens, the convicted paedophile. The person against whom he offended-has that case been fully settled now with the ABC, or is it ongoing?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My understanding, and I haven't revisited that lately-I've been ready for you to ask that question for a while now-is that, yes, that case was settled.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And the total cost to the taxpayer?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm going to have to confirm on notice. I don't want to get it wrong. It's been a while since I looked it up.</p> | 102 |
| 61 | SQ22-000167 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - SkyMuster rebates | <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm that NBN Co is currently offering rebates to retail service providers to re-sign customers who left the NBN Sky Muster Plus plan?</p> <p>Mr Williams: I'd need to take on notice the specific timing, as to whether our retailer incentive was in place. We certainly-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But is that the intention?</p> <p>Mr Williams: We certainly have done that, and it's something I'm keen to pursue to ensure that customers have an opportunity to reappraise the opportunity to use the Sky Muster service we've already installed.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What types of customers would that target?</p> <p>Mr Williams: It would be customers who had Sky Muster services but no longer have an active-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it would target all customers, not specifically businesses or anything like that? I know mostly businesses run off Sky Muster Plus.</p> <p>Mr Williams: It would be customers who were once active customers and are no longer active customers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it would be all across the board?</p> <p>Mr Williams: Yes.</p> | 103 |
| 62 | SQ22-000168 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Satellite outage | <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay; just walk me through what the outage was.</p> <p>Mr Williams: If you don't mind, I've got some notes here. So it was at 8.30 on 21 December. Optus, who manage-they, effectively, fly-our satellites, confirmed an off-orbit condition of our second satellite, which we call our 1B satellite. As to a root cause analysis of why that happened, our satellite vendor, Maxar, has delivered their PIR, their post-incident review, and, while it cannot be 100 per cent characterised as this, all the evidence points to a micrometeorite that impacted the satellite. That effectively makes the satellite's body rotate whilst it remains in its orbit, so the satellite is no longer pointing at the appropriate spot on earth, so the payload-the transmission system on that satellite-is effectively switched off for that period. Now, that impacted about 46,500 customers. The</p> | 105 |

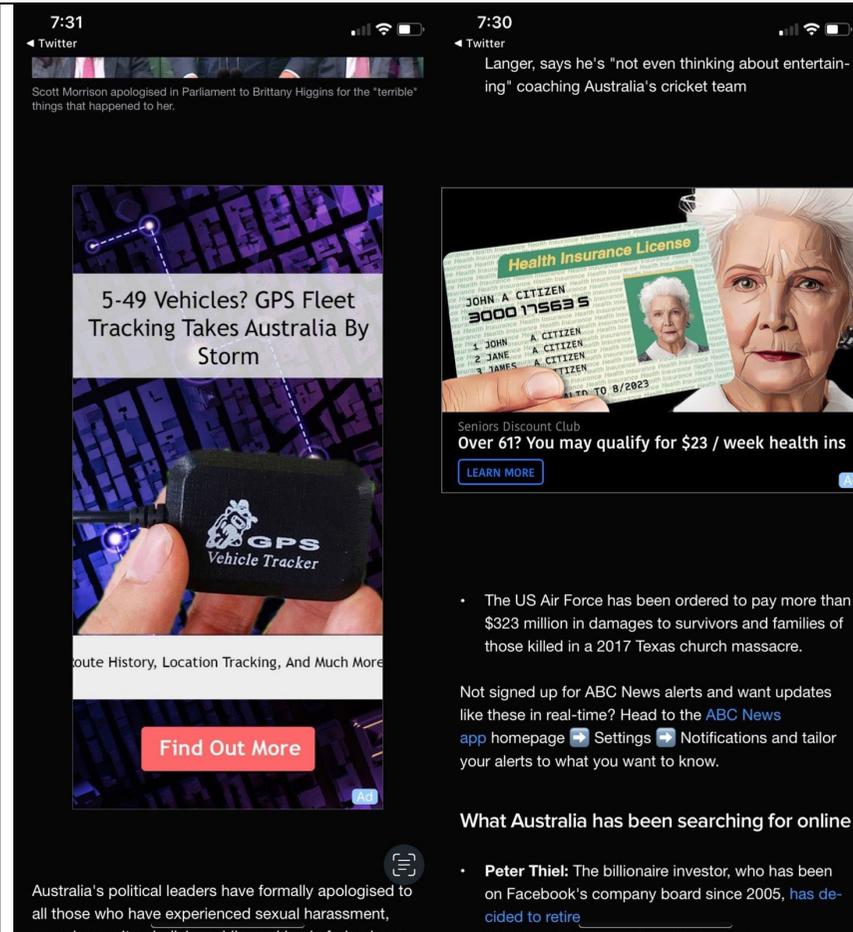
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| | | | | <p>satellite was able to find earth again. It's one thing that-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: It does that all on its own? Mr Williams: You know how you say, 'It's not rocket science'? Well, this is rocket science. It found earth. It recovered. The testing regime that's undertaken meant that those customers were out for a period of about seven hours, so that took it through to about 3.20 am on 22 December. And the satellite's actually got some optical recognition that saw some meteorite activity. So we're pretty confident that that was the cause of that seven-hour outage that impacted the 46,500 out of about 112,000 satellite customers. But then, subsequent to that, there was the impact of those customers coming back online. The major issue, frankly, was for 573 customers, or about 600 customers-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And they were off for about a fortnight, I think?</p> <p>Mr Williams: They were off for about two weeks. The issue was found to be caused by missing parameters in a configuration file for the customer premises devices-the boxes that NBN puts in the customers' homes. They get parameters from the network, and those parameters were missing. Essentially, some systems in the network had those parameters and effectively knew that that service was there; other network elements didn't believe that that service was there-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it couldn't pick it up? Mr Williams: It couldn't pick it up, effectively. And, frankly, though there was a course of action and three times a day updates and that kind of thing, it took quite a long time, actually, to delve into what was wrong and how you could recover. In the meantime, we had a few theories. We were mobilising people off annual leave to potentially do 600 truck rolls into the bush. Fortunately, we were able to recover with, effectively, manual intervention. So, since then, you'd say, 'Well, what caused that?'</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Williams: There's essentially a system-some load balances that we believe were the root cause. We're now working with our partners in the States to say: 'Let's go down to the next level and the next level of root cause to understand how we can make sure it doesn't happen again.' Meanwhile, we've got some emergency patches or workarounds so that, if we do identify this kind of thing happening again, we can rapidly identify and rapidly recover services.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And deal with it-okay. So were any rebates paid to retail providers and those affected 600 users because of that excessive downtime?</p> <p>Mr Williams: I'd have to take on notice the timing context, but our wholesale broadband agreement prescribes rebates for these kinds of service interruption.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes. Is that an automatic rebate, or do people have to</p> | |
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| | | | | | apply? Mr Williams: It should be automatic. | |
| 63 | SQ22-000242 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - FTTN co-existence period | <p>Senator URQUHART: Can I also confirm that you expect the FTTN coexistence period to continue up until the end of 2023 and beyond?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: The end of coexistence across the FTTN network is driven by a couple of different parameters, such as existing legacy services that are operating on the network. Where we can't end coexistence, it's because we are working with other providers to exit those legacy services so we can essentially fully power up the FTTN network. The exact date, unfortunately, I can't give you. I can't confirm that date.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay, but the issue is: is it expected that it will continue up until the end of 2023 and beyond? Is that an expectation?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Certainly the number of lines that are impacted by coexistence is declining, and we have a program in place to work to rectify all of those lines. I guess the number of lines that have been impacted has been decreasing steadily, but I would have to check that date for you</p> | 105 |
| 64 | SQ22-000169 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Fibre upgrade trial | <p>Senator URQUHART: In August 2021, NBN Co said that up to 10,000 FTT end premises would be involved in an upgrade trial; however, that number was then scaled down to 525. This included 500 for fibre to the node and 25 for fibre to the curb. Why was it scaled down?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes-Kathrine, do you want to talk to this?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Sure. We engaged in a consultative manner with the retail service providers for them to, essentially, put out expressions of interest to their customers. And, due to a number of things that the retail service providers had going on, the need to develop IT systems and processes, some of them elected not to participate in the trial. So therefore that sort of limited the numbers that would participate in an early trial.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me which retail providers participated in the trial?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I'll have to take that on notice</p> <p>Mr Rue: We'll get that for you, Senator, before tonight.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Have the 525 spots been fully filled?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I will need to check that as well</p> | 106-7 |
| 65 | SQ22-000170 | NBN Co Limited | Chisholm, Anthony | NBN - Strategic Review - in reference to QoN 158 | <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I just want to move on to question on notice 158, which is a question that was put in several forms over the course of last year. Mr Rue, you're aware of that question?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm not, but I'm just about to become aware.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: It goes to the serious matter of whether figures in a public</p> | 113 |

NBN document, which came at a cost to the taxpayer of \$4.5 million, were manipulated or altered to support Liberal Party misinformation about Labor's original fibre rollout. I want to put some facts on the table. Page 102 of the strategic review claims the cumulative capital expenditure for scenario 2, the redesigned fibre rollout, is \$12 billion less over the peak funding period financial year 2011 to financial year 2024 than when compared to scenario 1. This is shown in exhibit 4-6. However, when we examine the peak funding figures in exhibit 4-6, they only decrease by \$9 billion. This does not appear to be mathematically plausible. Questions pertaining to this discrepancy were put to the department on several occasions over the course of 2021. The department was so intent on distancing themselves that they said the question was a matter for the NBN Co and then did not even transfer the question on notice to the company. In its most recent response, the reason the NBN Co has given for the peak funding decreasing by \$9 billion and not by \$12 billion is: 'Page 17 of the strategic review document sets out the differences in peak funding between the two scenarios. This includes \$1 billion rollover revenue and \$8 billion lower capex spend in the forecast period. There are three reasons why this response to the Senate is incorrect. First, the figures NBN Co are referring to are cumulative capital expenditure and revenues for the period financial years 2011 to 2021. This is not the peak funding period associated with the report for either scenario 1 or scenario 2. The claims period is financial years 2011 to 2024, which is also stated on page 56. Second, and most amusingly, if revenue decreased by \$1 billion, it would have caused peak funding for scenario 2 to increase, not decrease. NBN Co have actually added the figures in the wrong direction in an attempt to mislead the \$9 billion figure. Third, scenario 2 is claimed to be faster and more efficient than scenario 1. This begs the question: how could it be generating revenue more slowly? The reason the NBN Co's inability to explain the discrepancy matters is that it suggests the key tables on page 17 and 102 of the National broadband network: strategic review were not only incorrect but manually altered for political purposes. If this occurred with the knowledge of NBN Co executives at the time, it would raise serious questions. I note that if such activity took place in a private company it would have potential to be captured by the Corporations Act. Mr Rue, this is not an issue we are going to let go. If standards of public governance are to improve, then lies and the potential manipulation of taxpayer funded reports for political purposes have to be identified and called out. I note for the Hansard record that you were not an employee of NBN Co at the time and that, therefore, these matters do not reflect on you. Nonetheless, Labor senators are going to lodge this question on notice again and seek NBN Co's explanation

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| | | | | | <p>for the discrepancy. We will be requesting that you or the chief financial officer take personal responsibility for reviewing the response. If the NBN Co are unable to explain the discrepancy, the question on notice response should clearly state that to be the case. The response cannot make numbers up in the hope that this will go away, as we will not let up on it</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rue: What was the question?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: We're saying we're going to put it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I see.</p> <p>CHAIR: It's a serious question. I think you should take it on notice. If you want to say now, that's up to you</p> <p>Mr Rue: Thank you for pointing that out.</p> | |
| 66 | SQ22-000192 | Screen Australia | Urquhart, Anne | Screen Australia - On the producer offset | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why have updated guidelines for the producer offset still not been released, given legislation was passed in early December? • How many feature films are waiting for their producer offset to be approved? How many productions have been unable to commence due to this holdup? • Why wasn't Screen Australia prepared to have updated guidelines ready to go? | Written |
| 67 | SQ22-000193 | Screen Australia | Urquhart, Anne | Screen Australia - SCREEN Fund | Can Screen Australia confirm it independently makes decisions on grants awarded under the SCREEN Fund and these are not influenced by advocacy from government ministers or Liberal Party candidates? | Written |
| 68 | SQ22-000195 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Streaming video on demand (SVOD) revenue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assessment has the Department done of SVOD (streaming video on demand) revenue? • Is the Department currently aware of the amount of revenue SVODs invest in commissioning Australian content in percentage terms? • How many streaming services currently invest more than 5 per cent of their revenue on commissioning Australian content? How many invest less? | Written |
| 69 | SQ22-000209 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Attack on SMEs | <p>ABC has been participating in the Attorney-General's Department's Review of the Privacy Act 1988.</p> <p>When the Privacy Act was extended to the private sector in 2000, small business fought hard to secure an exemption for small businesses with an annual turnover of \$3 million or less, given the significant regulatory burden and cost.</p> <p>During this review, a number of submissions to the Issues Paper called for the removal of this exemption, primarily from academics who have no links to the</p> | Written |

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| | | | | | <p>small business community and oppose its existence for theoretical and irrelevant reasons.</p> <p>The ABC made a submission to the Issues Paper. This was understandable given that the review also involves a consideration of the journalism exemption in the Act.</p> <p>What was not understandable, was the ABC arguing in their submission: "the ABC supports the removal of the small business exemption on the basis that the exemption inconsistently regulates businesses and adds to the complexity of the Privacy Act."</p> <p>This is extraordinary. In essence, the ABC is calling for the subjugation of thousands of small businesses across the country to a highly complex and costly regulatory framework after two years of being crushed by the pandemic, to address no problem that has been proven to exist.</p> <p>? What consultation was undertaken by the ABC prior to calling for thousands of small businesses to be subjected to complex Commonwealth privacy law?</p> <p>? Which of the functions in the ABC Charter is the removal of the small business exemption relevant to?</p> <p>? Did the ABC undertake any cost analysis or evaluation of the burden that would be imposed upon small businesses, before calling for them to be subjected to Commonwealth privacy law?</p> <p>? In your view, where is the line for what political advocacy by the ABC is inappropriate? If it is deemed appropriate at the ABC to call for thousands of small businesses to be burdened with thousands of dollars in regulatory compliance costs, would it be appropriate for the ABC to call for tax hikes on small businesses? If not, what is the difference?</p> | |
| 70 | SQ22-000210 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - advertising on iview app | Why is this advertising appearing on the iview app? | Written |



71 SQ22-000211 Australian Broadcasting Corporation Bragg, Andrew ABC - News media bargaining code Can the ABC please advise where the 50 new journalists will be located and when they will start work? Written

72 SQ22-000212 Australian Broadcasting Corporation Bragg, Andrew ABC - efficiencies • What is the total value of efficiencies the ABC has found over the last 3 years? • What efficiencies have been found? Written

73 SQ22-000213 Australian Broadcasting Corporation Bragg, Andrew ABC - Staff • What is the ABC's current total headcount (ongoing and non-ongoing)? Have these headcounts increased over the past 2 years? • In June 2021, the ABC said it employed 26 lawyers. At an estimates hearing of November 2021, Mr Anderson advised the ABC employed 36 lawyers. In response to a question on notice dated 29 November 2021, the ABC said it employed a total of 44 Written

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| | | | | | lawyers. How many lawyers does the ABC employ? Please include employees who work directly in legal roles as well as roles that are substantively or occasionally legal in nature. | |
| 74 | SQ22-000214 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Social media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What enforcement actions have been taken against ABC staff who have breached the ABC's guidelines for personal use of social media? Have any staff been terminated? • How does the ABC decide what action will be taken against staff who breach the ABC's personal use of social media guidelines? What is the threshold for termination? | Written |
| 75 | SQ22-000215 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Engagement of Bird & Bird | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On what date was Bird & Bird first engaged and by whom (Louise Milligan or the ABC)? • On what date was the fee agreement between the ABC and Bird & Bird made? | Written |
| 76 | SQ22-000216 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - use of ABC logo by ABC Friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did the ABC first become aware ABC Friends is using the ABC's logo? • When did Mr Anderson first become aware ABC Friends is using the ABC's logo? • What steps has the ABC taken to ensure ABC Friends ceases using its logo? Has the ABC contacted ABC Friends to ask that its logo not be used? | Written |
| 77 | SQ22-000217 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - coverage of the 2022 election | What editorial steps has the ABC taken or will the ABC take to ensure it does not repeat its behaviours during the 2019 election, which were described by the ABC's own review of its election coverage as biased? | Written |
| 78 | SQ22-000219 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Mobile blackspot program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many sq km of new mobile coverage have been delivered since the 2019 election? • How many sq km of new mobile coverage were delivered between September 2013 and July 2016? | Written |
| 79 | SQ22-000220 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Australia Post Bonuses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the Minister briefed on the quantum and distribution of Australia Post bonuses for FY2021 before the Australia Post annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Did the Minister have any meetings with the Chair of Australia Post to discuss the quantum and distribution of Australia Post bonuses for FY2021 before the Australia Post annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Was the Department briefed on the quantum and distribution of Australia Post bonuses for FY2021 before the Australia Post annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Did the Department have any meetings with Australia Post to discuss the | Written |

| | | | | | <p>quantum and distribution of Australia Post bonuses for FY2021 before the Australia Post annual report was published? If yes, on what date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much in total bonuses (executive and staff) have Australia Post paid out since July 2013? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|--|----------------|---|---|---------|------|----------|---------|------------|--|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------|
| 80 | SQ22-000221 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | NBN bonuses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the Minister briefed on the quantum and distribution of NBN bonuses for FY2021 before the NBN annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Did the Minister have any meetings with the Chair of NBN Co to discuss the quantum and distribution of NBN bonuses for FY2021 before the Australia Post annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Was the Department briefed on the quantum and distribution of NBN bonuses for FY2021 before the NBN annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • Did the Department have any meetings with NBN Co to discuss the quantum and distribution of Australia Post bonuses for FY2021 before the NBN Co annual report was published? If yes, on what date? • How much in total bonuses (executive and staff) have NBN Co paid out since July 2013? | Written | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 81 | SQ22-000222 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Mobile Black Spot Program - rejected sites | <p>Dating back to Round 2, please list all the carrier applications for MBSP sites which were eligible but not recommended by the Department.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Round</th> <th>Site</th> <th>Rejected</th> <th>Carrier</th> <th>Electorate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Round | Site | Rejected | Carrier | Electorate | | | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Written |
| Round | Site | Rejected | Carrier | Electorate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 82 | SQ22-000223 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Mobile Black Spot Program - Non-eligible applications | <p>Dating back to Round 2, please list all the carrier applications for MBSP sites which were not eligible under the program guidelines.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Round</th> <th>Site</th> <th>Rejected</th> <th>Carrier</th> <th>Electorate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Round | Site | Rejected | Carrier | Electorate | | | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Written |
| Round | Site | Rejected | Carrier | Electorate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 83 | SQ22-000224 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | Regional Connectivity Program - Funding for each project | <p>For the QON response below, please update the table to include the funding awarded for each project</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022 Communications Portfolio</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Hansard Ref: Written (16 June 2021)</p> <p>Topic: Regional Connectivity Program</p> <p>Senator Anne Urquhart asked: 1. For each funded project announced under the Regional Connectivity, can the Department provide an estimate, for each project, of the number of premises that will benefit from the upgrade. The funded projects being referred to can be found here https://www.communications.gov.au/file/51957/download?token=dprZ8P-P</p> <p>Answer: The attached table provides details of the number of premises estimated to benefit from the 132 projects funded under Round 1 of the Regional Connectivity Program.</p> <p>The total number of premises estimated to benefit from the outcomes of the projects is 45,701. In some instances premises covered by these projects may be a significant local business, tourism area, research facility, or remote roadhouse.</p> | Written |
| 84 | SQ22-000225 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications | Urquhart, Anne | NBN Special Access Undertaking (SAU) submission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who did the Department recently engage to assist NBNSCo with the development of its Special Access Undertaking submission to the ACCC? Please list each individual and company involved. • Through what process were these individuals and companies appointed? • How much was each individual/company paid? • How many of these individuals were involved in the 2013 NBN Strategic Review? • How many of these individuals were involved in the proclaimed NBN Cost Benefit analysis? | Written |

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| 85 | SQ22-000226 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Data growth since lockdown restrictions lifted | How does data traffic in the first week of February 2022 compare to the first week of February 2021? | Written |
| 86 | SQ22-000227 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Sky Muster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many users are on Sky Muster Plus? • How many users are on the normal Sky Muster plan? • What is the average monthly data usage of a customer on Sky Muster plus? | Written |
| 87 | SQ22-000228 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Unanswered QoN 158 - Strategic Review (Scenario 2 - CAPEX) | <p>Refer to Hansard from Senator Chisholm on 15 February 2022 (p113) for an overview of the problems with the response below. This QON is being lodged again for a proper response.</p> <p>Note that QON158 poses the following important question – "If cumulative capital expenditure has decreased by \$12 billion, why has peak funding only decreased by \$9 billion"?</p> | Written |

Environment And Communications

QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Committee Question Number: 158

Departmental Question Number: SQ21-001115

Division/Agency Name: NBN Co Limited

Hansard Reference: Written (05 November 2021)

Topic: NBN Co - Strategy Review (Scenario 2 - CAPEX)

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

Please answer the unanswered QoN below

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022
Communications Portfolio
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Question No: 102

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Hansard Ref: Written (15 June 2021)

Topic: Dept - 2013 NBN Strategic review - Scenario 2 (Capex)

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

a) Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative capital expenditure (FY11-24) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, has decreased by 12 billion as a result of deploying FTTP more efficiently.

If cumulative capital expenditure decreased by \$12 billion, why has peak funding only then decreased by \$9 billion?

Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 1: \$56b
Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 2: \$44b
Difference: \$12b

Peak funding Scenario 1: \$73b
Peak funding Scenario 2: \$64b
Difference: \$9b

Answer:

Questions relating to the 2013 Strategic Review should be directed to NBN Co Limited.

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| 88 | SQ22-000229 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Unanswered QoN 159 - NBN Strategic Review (Scenario 2 - revenue) | Please answer the unanswered QoN below. A failure to explain why cumulative revenue in Scenario 2 has decreased would suggest the document was manually altered or manipulated for political purposes. | Written |
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QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Committee Question Number: 159

Departmental Question Number: SQ21-001116

Division/Agency Name: NBN Co Limited

Hansard Reference: Written (05 November 2021)

Topic: NBN Co - Strategy Review (Scenario 2 - Revenue)

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

Please answer the unanswered QoN below

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022
Communications Portfolio
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Question No: 101

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Hansard Ref: Written (15 June 2021)**

Topic: Dept - 2013 NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 2 (Revenue)

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

a) Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative revenue (FY11-21) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, decreases by 1 billion, despite Scenario 2 being claimed a faster rollout as outlined in Exhibit 4-3. How can both claims be true? Were these figures fabricated?

Answer:

Questions relating to the 2013 Strategic Review should be directed to NBN Co Limited.

Answer:

In order to replicate the output of this scenario, NBN Co would need to gather information from the original external consultants who worked on this aspect of the Strategic Review eight years ago. This is not considered a reasonable use of resources.

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| 89 | SQ22-000230 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | Unanswered QoN 103 - Strategic Review (Scenario 2 - CPP) | <p>Please provide an answer to the unanswered QON below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022 Communications Portfolio Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications</p> <p>Question No: 103</p> <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Hansard Ref: Written (15 June 2021)</p> <p>Topic: Dept - 2013 NBN strategic review - Scenario 2</p> <p>Senator Anne Urquhart asked: a) What Cost per Premises for FTTP did Scenario 2 in the FTTP strategic review specifically assume?</p> <p>Answer: Questions relating to the 2013 Strategic Review should be directed to NBN Co Limited.</p> </div> | Written |
| 90 | SQ22-000231 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - non-response QoN239 | <p>We note the non-response in QON239 from Budget Estimates</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>As outlined initially in National Broadband Network Senate Select Committee December 2013, and further in Questions on Notice and hearings from Budget Estimates 2015-16, Additional Estimates Spill-over 2016-17 and Budget Estimates 2017-18 parts of the 2013 Strategic Review were redacted due to the commercial sensitivity of the numbers provided by contributing organisations.</p> <p>To examine each item, to determine with these multiple parties what remains commercially sensitive in 2021 would require a significant diversion of resources.</p> <p>This excuse is not a satisfactory response.</p> <p>Mr Rue has put on the Hansard record his estimates of the current per-premise Local Fibre Network and lead-in build. As such, the figures sought above cannot be commercially sensitive.</p> | Written |
| 91 | SQ22-000232 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Missed technician appointments | How many technician appointments did NBN miss in 2021 | Written |
| 92 | SQ22-000233 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Copper purchases to date | How many metres of new copper has NBN purchased to date? | Written |

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| 93 | SQ22-000234 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Directly buried copper | List all suburbs in the FTTN footprint which contain directly buried copper cable (i.e. no conduit). | Written |
| 94 | SQ22-000235 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Areas of low demand | Please list the top 50 SAMs (and suburbs) in the FTTN footprint with the lowest take-up of NBN services. | Written |
| 95 | SQ22-000236 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Fixed wireless speeds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 25 Mbps or less in February 2021? • How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 20 Mbps or less in February 2021? | Written |
| 96 | SQ22-000237 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Rebates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Focus on Fast campaign was labelled a success at the half-year results. How many 12Mbps users moved up to 25 or 50 under Focus on Fast? • How many 100Mbps users moved up to 250Mbps and stayed once the campaign ended? | Written |
| 97 | SQ22-000238 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Unify and SMAX | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which senior executive in NBN Co signed off on the decision to unethically cut the payment rates of subcontractors under the guise of an IT change? • Was the bonus of this executive reduced as a result? Was there any consequence whatsoever? • Which executive has ultimate authority over payment rates to delivery partners? Who has to sign off on changes? | Written |
| 98 | SQ22-000239 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Non-answer QoN 242 - 300,00 premises | Regarding the non-answer to QON242 from Additional Estimates, please answer each question from a) through to j) individually. | Written |

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates March 2021
Communications Portfolio
NBN Co

Question No: 242

NBN Co

Hansard Ref: Written, 21/04/2021

Topic: New premises

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

- a) How many new premises in the Brownfield footprint did NBNCo discover between the 2020 and 2021 Corporate Plans?
- b) When did NBNCo “discover” these new premises?
- c) Which team within NBNCo discovered the additional premises? T
- d) To whom were the additional premises first reported, and on what date?
- e) When were Shareholder Departments first notified about the additional premises?
- f) When was the CFO first notified that additional provision was required to fund these “additional premises”
- g) Were these “additional premises” randomly dispersed into the existing brownfield footprint or clustered together across the footprint?
- h) How is it that these were all discovered in the final year of the rollout?
- i) When were these premises put into design?
- j) When were these premises put into construction?

Answer:

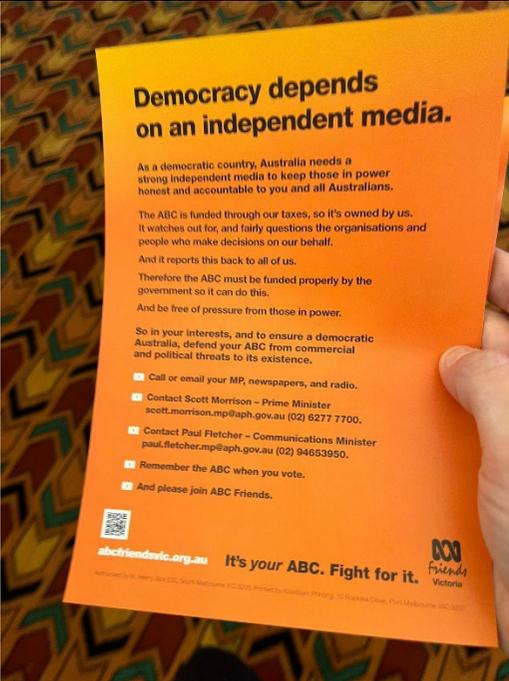
The process for identification of addressable locations for the volume build and tracking of Ready to Connect (RTC) and Yet to RTC premises, is covered in detail in the Built and Fully Operational report, available at: www.communications.gov.au/sites/default/files/report-on-assessment-methodology-extent-nbn-access-network-built-and-operational.pdf

Specifically, to support our processes of identifying new premises, NBN Co has implemented an addressing system to manage addressable locations across Australia, which it continues to develop and maintain the addressing database via a number of processes that interact with several external inputs, for example but not limited to Telstra, customers and RSPs. Importantly, this is a ‘live’

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which executive is responsible for the integrity of NBNCo's mapping data and footprint forecasts? • What was this executive's bonus in FY2021? • Did that executive have their bonus penalised at all in FY2021 for not picking up 300,000 premises in the fixed line footprint? | |
| 99 | SQ22-000240 | NBN Co Limited | Urquhart, Anne | NBN - Samford NBN - NBN refusal to engage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is NBN Co not informing community groups of key requirements in the application process for Federal / State grant programs? Instead, taking a legal position and shutting community efforts down? 2. Why does NBN Co. need to be a participant in the grant funding process? The funding request by the not-for-profit Association is to obtain funds to pay NBN Co. to undertake "in field" site surveys. 3. Why is NBN Co not confident that Site Survey pricing provided 9 months earlier, is now not an accurate indicator of current and future pricing? Why is there a material difference in expected pricing? Are NBN Co's subcontractors gaming the system? Is NBN Co. overcharging community groups for administrative or other work undertaken? 4. Australian business quoting processes typically do not ask prospective customers if they have "open-ended" funds, before issuing a quote and committing to undertaking work. Why does NBN Co, a government business entity, have such a contemptuous (and ridiculous) business process that requires a prospective client to disclose financial ability to pay for an unspecified amount? 5. Is the refusal to supply updated quotes, and the subsequent business process, a breach of ACCC rules 'Refusal to supply products or services' / 'Anti-competitive behaviour'? Why is NBN Co taking positions to shut down community efforts to achieve better communications outcomes in their area? 6. NBN Co's raison d'être is to provide communications facilities that meet the needs of communities. Why are NBN Co actively blocking community-led initiatives in the 4520 district – an area that remains under-served with communications infrastructure in 2022? | Written |

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| | | | | | See Attachment A for background information | |
| 100 | SQ22-000241 | Australian Postal Corporation | Urquhart, Anne | AUS POST - Employee Survey | <p>During 2021-2022 Supplementary Budget Estimates, Ms Susan Davies, Executive General Manager, People and Culture said:</p> <p>"No, that's not correct. I'll state that again: that is not correct. If you refer to the remuneration report, it's very transparent. We report all our salaries. If it's mine in particular that you want to look at, then that's reported in the rem report this year and last year. The stretch passes of my salary-I have a base salary and I have a short-term incentive component to my salary, and that has not increased-whether they were achieved or paid is a different question, but my salary has not increased."</p> <p>And;</p> <p>"All of this is reported in the rem. If you look at the numbers that have just been reported, as a base as an exec member there is a 70 per cent payment of STI on target and 30 per cent on stretch. There is a very detailed scorecard. It is very transparent. There is a lot of governance around that scorecard and a lot of governance around the Australia Post remuneration policies. The scorecards are set individually. I have my scorecard. A bulk of the scorecard is on enterprise financials, 50 per cent-that is, 25 per cent on revenue and 25 per cent on PBT-and then we've got core objectives within that scorecard of consumer NPS, business NPS, service levels, [inaudible] and of course, importantly, safety."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the results of Australia Post's annual employee survey in any way contribute a weighting toward the Executive Team receiving either the short-term incentive component of their salary or their "stretch"? • Does the employee engagement result for the People Target section of the annual employee survey in any way contribute a weighting toward either Ms Susan Davies' short-term incentive or stretch? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If yes, what percentage is this weighted at? • Is the short-term incentive or stretch that relates to the weighted component of the annual employee survey based on an uplift on the previous year's survey? • Do some or all of the Executive Team at Australia Post have a portion of their short-term incentive or stretch determined by the | Written |

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| | | | | | <p>results of the annual employee survey? o If yes, what percentage is this weighted at?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all employees eligible for a short-term incentive or stretch have a component of this determined by the results of the annual employee survey? • When was the policy of weighting an individual employees' eligibility for short-term incentive or stretch linked to the results of the staff survey enacted? | |
| 101 | SQ22-000280 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Tweets by Ms Julia Zemiro | <p>Senator Andrew Bragg to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation With reference to the tweets by Ms Julia Zemiro tabled during the Additional Estimates hearing on 15 February 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each of the 41 tweets, please explain whether the tweet is or is not consistent with the ABC's social media policy. Please address each tweet individually. • If a tweet is consistent with the policy, please explain why. • If a tweet is not consistent with the policy, please explain why it is not and what action the ABC has taken, or intends to take, as a result. | Written |
| 102 | SQ22-000305 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Engagement with PR firm | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the ABC engage PR firm Wilkinson Butler in connection with the Christian Porter matter for itself and/or for Louise Milligan? 2. Why was it engaged? 3. How much was paid and what work did it do for whom? | Written |
| 103 | SQ22-000306 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Branding on distributed material | <p>Why does this leaflet (see attached image), which was supplied at an ABC Friends Victoria meeting in Melbourne on Thursday 3 March 2022, contain the ABC's logo?</p> | Written |



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| 104 | SQ22-000319 | Australian Broadcasting Corporation | Bragg, Andrew | ABC - Spotify | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What proportion of your ABC podcast listeners consume podcasts through Spotify? 2. Do you receive a portion of revenue from advertising that appears on Spotify? If so, how much? 3. Do you receive a portion of revenue from advertising that appears on other third-party platforms? If so, how much? 4. What is this money used for? | Written |