

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications –
Radiocommunications Bills 2020**
ANSWERS TO INQUIRY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

IQ45

Division: Spectrum and Telecommunications Deployment Policy
Inquiry Name: Radiocommunications Bills 2020
Inquiry Date: 12 October 2020
Topic: Cost of Spectrum review and reform process
Question Type: Hansard Ref: Page 26, 12/10/2020

Senator Green asked:

Senator GREEN: Okay. I've got some questions that, if necessary, I'm happy for the department to take on notice, but I'll just put them to you now. What has been the cost of the spectrum review and reform process to the department and ACMA in terms of time and resources?

Ms Brown: I'll have to take that on notice to give you an accurate answer, Senator.

Senator GREEN: Okay. If you could provide a table of that information to the committee, that would be helpful. If you could include as part of those calculations not just staff but also the use of consultants, research, consultation meetings, travel, drafting of submissions and economic modelling, that would be helpful, and I'm sure the committee will forward that to you after the hearing.

Answer:

The resources used by the Department in conducting the 2015 Spectrum Review, and the development and implementation of reforms to spectrum management following the Spectrum Review, have been met from within the Department's available resourcing.

Staffing

- Following the Spectrum Review, between 2015 and 2018, the Department dedicated staffing resources of up to 10 staff (as necessary) to deliver projects associated with the recommendations of the Spectrum Review, including the development of legislation and reviews into Spectrum Pricing and Government Held Spectrum.
- Since 2018, the team developing the legislation within the Department has had staffing levels of up to six staff.

Consultants

The Department has engaged consultants as necessary to support these projects. A summary of expenditure is at Table 1. Specific details of these consultancies include:

- Nicholls.mmc Pty Ltd was engaged to facilitate the Spectrum Review stakeholder workshop held on 28 January 2015 and to assist in drafting the Spectrum Review's report.
- Noetic Solutions Pty Ltd was engaged to provide strategic planning of spectrum reform work during the period 12 May to 7 July 2016.

- Noetic Solutions Pty Ltd was further engaged provided project management support from 16 May to 31 August 2017.
- Hoffmann Donohue Pty Ltd was engaged to facilitate the Single Licensing System roundtable held on 18 November 2016.
- Hoffmann Donohue Pty Ltd was further engaged to facilitate the Radiocommunications Spectrum Reform Roundtable held at the Department’s offices in Canberra on 20 February 2018.

Research and Economic Modelling

- The Centre for International Economics (CIE) was engaged to undertake Quantitative Study of Economic Efficiency in Spectrum Management. CIE produced “The economic value of spectrum” research report provided to the Department in January 2015 and the “Maximising market involvement in spectrum management” research report provided to the Department in February 2015.
- The CIE was also engaged to develop a theoretical market-based model for spectrum management in order to test how such a framework would operate. The model forms part of the CIE research report provided to the Department in February 2015.

Consultation and travel

- The Department also met costs associated with holding stakeholder workshops and information sessions (detailed in a separate Question on Notice) and costs associated with travel for the Department and its consultants to attend these sessions.
- The consultation on the exposure draft Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Bill 2020 was undertaken by departmental staff using teleconferencing and videoconferencing facilities to meet with stakeholders. Accordingly, there are no direct consultant, travel or meeting costs associated with this consultation process.

Table 1: Department resources for Spectrum reform processes

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Consultants (\$)	-	16,500	32,700	40,500	-	-
Economic research (\$)	220,000	-	-	-	-	-
Travel (\$)			1170	4470	-	-
Consultation meetings (\$)	6570	3800	-	-	-	-