

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 8

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 27, 28/02/2017

Topic: Spectrum review implementation

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked:

Senator O'NEILL: Will there be provision for spectrum review implementation by the department and/or the ACMA in the 2017-18 budget?

Senator Fifield: Obviously, we are not going to comment on what may or may not be in the budget.

Senator O'NEILL: Can it be implemented without the budget application?

Senator Fifield: We are not going to talk about what may or may not be in the budget.

Senator O'NEILL: But it is not indicated to the sector about your commitment to doing this or not. Can it be done without a budget? Have you asked the question of if it can be done without a budget?

Senator Fifield: We will do what is required to achieve the policy objectives.

Senator O'NEILL: Mr Robinson?

Mr Robinson: We and the ACMA are allocating resources to go through the consultation processes and drafting processes we are doing.

Senator O'NEILL: What is the quantum of that request?

Mr Robinson: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: Is there any chance you could provide that to us today? You must have done preparatory figures.

Mr Robinson: No; I doubt that we could do it today. It is within our existing appropriations. As the minister said, we cannot comment on what may be in the upcoming budget.

Answer:

The implementation of the Spectrum Review is currently being carried out by the Department within existing appropriations. The Department has dedicated staff to the drafting and consultation process, who are supported by a range of other sections such as the Department's Office of General Counsel. The Department works collaboratively with the ACMA on implementation.