

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates February 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 90**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 82, 28/02/2017**

**Topic: Evidence of consultation in NT**

**Senator McCarthy, Malrindirri asked:**

**Senator McCARTHY:** It is a guess. The reason I ask is that the 22,000 households could be just in Darwin. The concern that has been raised with you directly, and through others, is on behalf of the regions of the Northern Territory, particularly the remote regions of the Northern Territory. It is absolutely critical that the ABC, the national broadcaster, does its homework on every level with every decision. As you well know, there are concerns in the regions. Can you table the evidence of the consultation that you say your local staff have made across the Northern Territory?

**Ms Guthrie:** I can take that on notice. But I will highlight that if you look at other services provided in the Northern Territory, they very much have networks that are similar to the ABC's. Services such as the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association have a vast range of FM transmitters across the Northern Territory and also broadcast over VAST, have a radio app and livestream from their website. They do not operate short-wave services.

**Answer:**

The ABC's decision to terminate the Northern Territory shortwave services was based on internal consultation and analysis of relevant data. However, during the process of transition, representatives from the ABC were in communication with a number of Northern Territory groups, including the Northern Territory 4WD clubs, the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA), the Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) and the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association.