

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 22**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: NCOA recommendations on the public broadcasters**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

The ABC seemed to be the only media outlet that did not report the national commission of audit recommendations on the public broadcasters. Is there an editorial policy of the ABC to not report on threats to itself?

**Answer:**

All ABC content teams are encouraged to report without fear or favour on all newsworthy issues and events, including the Commission of Audit. In a similar vein, the ABC has also reported on Minister Turnbull's Efficiency Study and the recent federal budget, both of which were considered newsworthy and both of which had relevance to the ABC.

Some examples of the ABC'S coverage of the implications of the commission of audit (and other review processes) on the ABC itself can be found here:-

- <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2013/s3935333.htm>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-01/commission-of-audit-report-released-by-federal-government/5423556> (contains link to ALL recommendations and specific reference to the axing of the Australia Network)
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-01/an-govt-audit-report-recommends-ausnet-to-be-scrapped/5424164>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2014/s4004005.htm>

A more obvious explanation for the relatively minor and incidental mentions of the ABC and SBS in the ABC's Commission of Audit report is that the Commission of Audit's report contained many newsworthy elements, such that priority had to be given to which elements were covered and the extent of coverage given.