

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 559

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: Page 17 (28/5/2014)

Topic: Budget provisions – future sale of spectrum

Senator Thorp asked:

Senator Thorp: Yes. This is my final question before we move to another section. Budgets often have included unpublished amounts for the expected future sale of spectrum. I am not asking you about amounts or anything like that, but could you give us an idea of when such sales will occur?

Mr Clarke: Senator, I am at a disadvantage here in that my experts in this area have left, not anticipating this line of questioning. Can I come back and give you an answer during the session?

Senator Thorp: If you would. I will be quite specific about my question then. Is there any provision in this budget for expected future sale of spectrum, in what year or years does it occur and what are the anticipated lots. That is my question.

Answer:

In terms of future sales, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has been directed to report to the Minister for Communications by 1 September 2014 on the appropriate procedures for allocating licences for the unsold lots from the digital dividend (700 megahertz (MHz)) spectrum auction. The Minister will consider the ACMA's report on process, timing and other settings. Decisions on next steps will be taken after that consideration.

Forecast spectrum revenues also include fees for reissuing 15 year spectrum licences.