

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: 647

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Since 25 February 2014, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, Department or Agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1. For the period 25 February to 30 April 2014, the Department of Communications engaged The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on 10 March 2014 to analyse Australia Post's postal services strategy. BCG submitted its final report to the Department on 26 May 2014. Elements of the report were published on the Department's website on 24 June 2014.
2. The cost of the consultancy was \$500,000. Overall responsibility for the contract was at the SES Band 1 level, with day-to-day management undertaken by an Executive Level 1 officer.
3. The Government is currently considering the report. A background paper from the consultancy, *Australian and International Postal Services Overview*, was published on 24 June 2014 on the Department's website at **www.communications.gov.au**.