

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 98

Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Hansard Ref: Page 16 (29/05/2014)

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator Ruston asked:

Can you on notice tell me how the ACMA is planning to meet its .25 per cent efficiency dividend and how it is also intending to meet its one per cent reduction in funding that was announced in the budget. You may have already answered. But just an outline would be great.

Answer:

The ACMA received an increase in the efficiency dividend of 0.25 per cent resulting in a further reduction in appropriations of:

- \$0.221M in 2014-15;
- \$0.421M in 2015/16;
- \$0.617M in 2016/17; and
- \$0.623M in 2017/18.

The ACMA also received a one-off efficiency dividend cut of 1 per cent to base funding resulting in reductions of:

- \$0.863M in 2014/15;
- \$0.823M in 2015/16;
- \$0.805M in 2016/17; and
- \$0.813M for 2017/18.

While the ACMA has always managed any reduction in appropriation holistically, the further reduction in funding that was announced in the budget will be managed by a number of specific measures that have been taken to reduce costs, and the ACMA will meet the declining budget forecasts by reprioritising activities.

To further assist with reducing operating costs to meet these savings measures, the ACMA has been exploring shared services with other agencies. The ACMA and other agencies recognise the potential benefits from implementing shared services, particularly given the respective constrained financial circumstances all agencies face. Initial work explored shared services opportunities in corporate functions such as ICT and financial systems, with implementation likely to occur in the financial year 2015-16.