

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 31

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 03/06/2015

Topic: The 2015-16 Budget - Spectrum

Senator Urquhart asked:

The 2015-16 Budget states (Paper No. 1, page 4-13) that: “Non-taxation receipts (including Future Fund earnings) are expected to grow by 17.8 per cent in 2014-15 and grow by 7.7 per cent in 2015-16. This largely relates to proceeds from the sale of spectrum licences.”

- a. Please set out the amounts by which receipts from the sale of spectrum licences are expected to increase in 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- b. Please indicate which spectrum licences in particular these increases are due to.

Answer:

The spectrum receipts are from the digital dividend auction and the expected reissue of expiring spectrum licences.

In 2014-15 the amounts received were:

- 700 MHz and 2.5 GHz (digital dividend auction) – approximately \$1.96 billion
- 1800 MHz – approximately \$45 million
- 2.3 GHz – approximately \$208,000

For 2015-16 receipts are expected for licences in the 2.1 GHz, 3.4 GHz and 27 GHz spectrum bands. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is yet to conclude its processes in relation to these bands. Expected payments are commercially sensitive and are not yet able to be published. Amounts will be reflected in the ACMA’s estimates when it has finalised its processes.