

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates May 2017
Communications Portfolio
The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 158

The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Page 24, 25/05/2017

Topic: J-Air email

Senator Abetz, Eric asked:

Senator ABETZ: We will get to that, but on 15 May ACMA informed J-Air by email that it had been successful in its application for 87.6 megahertz.

Mr Bean: My understanding was that it was more in terms of 'may be successful', but I do not have the email in front of me.

Senator ABETZ: Could you provide that on notice, because my advice is that they were told by email they had been successful full stop, not that they might be successful.

Mr Bean: Very well.

Answer:

On 15 May 2017, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) advised J-Air's Mr George Banky by email that preliminary assessments indicated two sites were in contention for the use of 87.6 MHz, however only one of these sites could use the frequency. The ACMA asked J-Air to nominate the site at which it would like the Low Power Open Narrowcast (LPON) service.

The ACMA completed its full assessment on 17 May 2017, which ruled out any possibility of allocating an LPON at either of the two potential sites identified by the preliminary assessment. The ACMA phoned Mr Banky on 18 May 2017 to advise him that final assessment of the applications had found that no sites were suitable, apologised for raising his expectations, and confirmed by email on 23 May 2017.