

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 554**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 11 (1/12/2014)**

**Topic: State-based 7.30 editions content**

**Senator McKenzie asked:**

**Senator McKENZIE:** Just with content, have you said targets about the proportion of content that will be from South Australia or Tasmania?

**Ms Torney:** Yes, we have. I am happy to provide these details.

**Senator McKENZIE:** That would be great. That will be measured and at future estimates we would be able to actually ascertain whether South Australia or Tasmanian stories are being increased or decreased.

**Answer:**

As part of the proposed changes to ABC News announced in November 2014, the ABC wants to offer State and Territory audiences a more responsive approach to coverage of local news, with more on-the-spot coverage that is less confined to broadcast schedules.

News has set targets for additional regular story production in each of the States and Territories, including:

- 24 in-depth exclusive local television stories a year with associated digital and radio stories (some of these might be part of a series on a particular issue run in two or three parts);
- 24 original local feature stories a year with associated digital and radio stories; and
- 12 set-piece studio interviews a year with local politicians or identities.

The ABC is also proposing to provide resources for up to ten news and current affairs programs a year focused on major local issues in each State and Territory:

- One-hour 7 pm news specials including outside broadcasts and associated digital content around major planned or breaking news events;
- One-off half-hour television specials and associated digital content to run on ABC TV, as well as possible play on ABC Local Radio, iView and as podcasts;
- Live co-productions between News and Local Radio around a major story and associated digital content; and
- Special digital reports providing in-depth coverage of a local issue or event.

News is also proposing to create a new role of State Coverage Producer in metropolitan newsrooms to plan and oversee expanded in-depth local coverage across platforms.