

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: 557

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Pages 28 and 29 (1/12/2014)

Topic: Reporting issues – competitiveness and red tape

Senator McGRATH: I have a couple of issues with some of the reporting that has taken place. On 14 October this year, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Industry launched the government's competitiveness agenda. It was a \$400 million policy. Are you able to provide details of which 7 pm news bulletins on the ABC around the country ran news packages on that policy announcement?

Mr Scott: I will take that on notice.

Senator McGRATH: Likewise, a week later, on 22 October, the government announced policy details about \$2 billion worth of red-tape cuts. Can you provide details of which ABC 7 pm news bulletins ran news packages on that announcement?

Mr Scott: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

ABC news content is available to audiences across a range of platforms, not simply to those tuning in to the 7 pm television news bulletin. The 7 pm television news bulletin runs for 30 minutes and comprises both local, national and international news, sport and weather. Accordingly its producers are unable to broadcast every news story of the day.

On 14 October, 7 pm bulletins focussed on Australia's relationship with Russia and the debate over the pay offer to the military. The policy announcement related to the government's competitiveness agenda was covered on a range of other ABC news programs and platforms, including [Lateline](#), [The Business](#) and [The Country Hour](#). In addition, ABC News 24 covered the Prime Minister's announcement live at 2 pm, and featured excerpts throughout the afternoon.

On 22 October, 7 pm bulletins covered the government's proposed changes to the renewable energy target. ABC News 24 broadcast the Prime Minister's 16 minute speech when the bill was introduced to parliament. Whilst the red tape cuts were not covered on the television bulletins or online on that date, they were covered on radio news, and reported extensively across ABC news platforms and programs in the lead-up.