

**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: 560**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref:** Page 31, 1 December 14

**Topic: Upgrades of Adelaide Studio**

**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** Because time is so limited, can you take on notice what upgrades you assert are required for the Adelaide studios considering they do not use the studio cameras in that production facility.

**Mr Scott:** We will talk about the upgrades that we feel would be required to keep a state-of-the-art internal production capability going.

**Answer:**

As a result of budget cuts, the Corporation has had to consider more efficient ways of producing content and adopting such measures where prudent to do so.

For the Corporation to continue using the Adelaide studio would have required an investment in a substantial studio upgrade. To create a state-of-the-art production facility on the site, the ABC would need to refurbish the space and purchase additional equipment. This would require investment in fixed capital infrastructure, such as lighting battens, control rooms and an EVS system for record and replay, at an estimated cost of \$6–\$9 million.

In addition, the 300 m<sup>2</sup> Adelaide studio space is limited to certain types of production, as it is too small to accommodate large sets or audiences and is therefore not suitable for entertainment programs. It is worth noting that, during planning for the Melbourne Accommodation Project at Southbank, the ABC determined that the optimum size for the new television studio was approximately 800m<sup>2</sup>. This is consistent with the size of both the ABC Sydney Studio 22 and Global Television's modern, purpose-built facility at Redfern.

The ABC determined that it is more economically-efficient to base television production, other than news and current affairs, in Sydney and Melbourne and close its television production studio in Adelaide. This review of television production facilities in South Australia does not affect the ABC's commitment to serving the state's news, information and entertainment needs.

The savings generated from the closure will be used by the ABC to work with the independent sector to create programming that reflects local diversity, and will be reinvested in high-impact, increasing reach and relevance.

Furthermore, the South Australian Film Corporation has state-of-the-art studio facilities that are available for producers to use for television production.