

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: 565

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 37 (1/12/14)

Topic: Decommissioning of RN programs

Senator Wright asked:

Senator WRIGHT: Of course I lament the passing of *Bush Telegraph* because I always felt that it was a wonderful way for urban dwellers to understand how things are in the bush. There are also so many other programs that look like they are on the chopping block too.

Mr Scott: But new programs are coming too.

Senator WRIGHT: Well they may be, but—

Mr Scott: They are.

Senator WRIGHT: Can I just say that I have lived long enough to still lament some of those programs that have gone. Programs come and go, yes. What is interesting is how they are replaced and what the specific programs on subject specific areas are—the religious programs and the business programs that have come and gone in the past, or have gone and have not come back.

Mr Scott: Some have come back. The religion program—

Senator WRIGHT: The thing I would like to ask is: where is it possible to get a definitive list of what those programs are? I know *Bush Telegraph* is going, and I understand that *Encounter* is going and that *Hindsight* and *Rear Vision*, two incredibly important history programs, are going. Where can we find out whether those programs are going?

CHAIR: Is it possible to take those on notice?

Mr Scott: Yes.

CHAIR: We are about to run out of time, and I respect very much the fact that you have to go and speak to your staff.

Senator Birmingham: Unless there are any erroneous statements there that Mr Mason wants to quickly address?

Mr Mason: *Rear Vision* is not being decommissioned.

Senator WRIGHT: *Hindsight* is.

Mr Mason: *Hindsight* and those other programs will be folded into RN documentaries, so they come out in a different way but their content will still be there, mandated across the network in prime time.

Senator WRIGHT: Could I get some clarity on those things?

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Answer:

In 2015, it is proposed that *Bush Telegraph*, *Quiet Space*, *Sound Quality* and *Weekend Planet* will be decommissioned. It is proposed that *By Design* and *First Bite* will be replaced by a one hour program combining their remit of architecture and food.

RN's discrete topical features programs *360*, *Hindsight*, *Into the Music*, *Poetica* and *Encounter* will be replaced by a daily, half hour anthology documentary program during primetime.

The RN *Drive* program will be reduced from 2 hours to 90 minutes daily (6-7.30 pm Monday-Friday) and *The Music Show* will be broadcast in one hour segments across two days (Saturday and Sunday mornings at 11 am) and repeated late at night.

Jazztrack will move to Radio National from ABC Classic FM. RN will also produce a new two hour afternoon weekday program, showcasing curated and edited content from RN's specialist output (this replaces previous repeated content), and a new weekly discussion program hosted by Tom Switzer