

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: 572

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: G20 reporting

Senator McGrath asked:

1. What resources did the ABC commit to the reporting of the G20?
3. Will the ABC undertake a review of its Queensland G20 coverage to determine whether it was balanced? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. Overall, 43 journalists and operational staff were assigned specifically to G20 coverage. This included staff working for scheduled news bulletins, at a live position inside the International Media Centre and as teams outside the exclusion zone covering the impact of the summit on Brisbane. Other resources in the Brisbane newsroom and across the wider network provided support as required.
2. ABC News provided comprehensive coverage across a wide range of topics on all platforms before, during and after the G20. In the lead up to the event, the ABC reported on the possibility of protests, explored the impact of security measures on Brisbane businesses and covered the Lord Mayor Graham Quirk's statement that he did not want to see the city become a ghost town during G20.
 - a. The Brisbane newsroom sent reporters to the Global Cafe and reported the information being shared at this event, ABC News ran stories on the volunteers helping make the event a success and reporters and crews toured the police operations centre and gave viewers a look at what went on inside.
 - b. Local bulletins provided details on road closures and changes to public transport, and parking in the CBD. During the event, ABC News examined the positive impact of the summit on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Reporters inside the G20 venue examined the likely importance of climate change at the summit and examined the work G20 countries were doing to create positive economic results.
 - c. The ABC covered the major protest marches and reported arrests to the extent that they were newsworthy events during a day of demonstrations. and;
 - d. The ABC also reported on the G20 dinner and entertainment. ABC News coverage included the Prime Minister's assessment of the G20 discussions as being constructive and candid. It also included the Queensland Police Commissioner's views and the Premier's assessment of the economic benefits to the state of Queensland.

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3. The ABC coverage of the G20 was reviewed constantly as it was produced and put to air or published. It was also discussed extensively at the conclusion of the summit. There are currently no plans for a formal review of the coverage.