

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: 575

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Property Holdings

Senator McGrath asked:

1. What was the value of the ABC's building and land holdings as at the end of the 2013-14 financial year?
2. What is the ABC doing to review its property holdings?
3. What is the ABC doing to unlock better value from its property holdings?
4. Is the ABC's property at Lanceley Place in Artarmon, Sydney currently being considered for sale?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. Whose idea was it to consider selling the property at Lanceley Place?
 - ii. When was this decision made?
5. What is the property at Lanceley Place currently being used for?
6. What is the property at Lanceley Place currently valued at?
7. Apart from the property at Lanceley Place, are any other ABC properties currently being considered for sale?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. How many properties are being considered for sale?
 - ii. Where are these properties located?
 - iii. What are these properties currently valued at individually?
8. Does the ABC have a timeline for the progress of any property sales?
 - a. If yes, please provide details.
9. How much does the ABC expect to raise from any property sales that are currently under consideration?

Answer:

1. At the conclusion of the 2013-14 financial year, the value of the ABC's buildings and land holdings was \$660 million.
2. The ABC reviews its property holdings on an ongoing basis and recently reviewed its capital city properties for utility and cost efficiency.
3. The ABC regularly reviews its properties to ensure accommodation requirements are fulfilled in the most cost effective manner. Where practicable, the ABC leases spare capacity to third parties to further reduce accommodation costs. To this end, the ABC has worked to modify its work spaces in capital cities, such as Adelaide and Hobart, to generate a revenue inflow. The ABC will continue to review options at other sites.
4. Yes.
 - a. i. The proposal to sell Lanceley Place was identified as part of a regular property review, as outlined in question two above, and proposed by ABC management.

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- a. ii. The proposal to divest the Lanceley Place site is currently subject to consultation and no decision has yet been finalised.
5. The site currently includes, a sound stage (and prop storage), workshops/storage (sets, engineering), Costumes, Field Crews, Outside Broadcast garage, IT Disaster recovery site, Tape and Film archive, helipad, satellite dishes and office accommodation for ABC Shop Online.
6. As the ABC is currently considering the proposed sale of its Lanceley Place site, disclosure of the current value may impact or prejudice the outcome of the sale.
7. Yes.
 - i. A number of regional sites are also under review, of which only one, Wagin, is owned by the ABC and is being considered for sale. In addition, the ABC intends to dispose of two sites in Melbourne (Elsternwick) when the Southbank site redevelopment is completed (expected by the end of the 2016/2017 financial year).
 - ii. Wagin, WA and Melbourne (Gordon St and Selwyn St), Elsternwick Vic
 - iii. As the ABC is currently considering the proposed sale of these sites, disclosure of the current value may impact or prejudice the outcome of the sale.
8. The timelines for the sale of the properties mentioned vary depending on their current use, status and legal requirements, such as *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) Act approvals.
9. Any proposed property sales will be subject to an open public market process to deliver the best price outcome possible.