

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 9

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 60, 20/10/2015

Topic: BCR Work plan

Senator McAllister, Jenny asked:

Senator McALLISTER: There are quite a few projects that are running behind time. Some of those you could credibly argue are to do with the change of machinery of government. Are there any other projects that are running behind time that we should be aware of in terms of that work plan?

Dr Paterson: I am not aware that there are. The key work that we are doing on data science and analytics of providing that capability to the whole of the department, with four elements to that work, is running to time. In fact the scope of that work has been expanded to meet demand within the department.

Senator McALLISTER: I have identified the ones that are behind time.

Dr Paterson: Yes. I am working from memory here, but that is my understanding of it.

Senator McALLISTER: Perhaps one of the things you could do on notice is to do a quick evaluation of that work plan and let us know how many of those things are going to meet the targets established in the work plan and how many are running behind time. How long has your unit been in place, Dr Paterson? Is it around a year or a bit longer?

Answer:

The following table sets out progress in meeting the timelines for the Bureau of Communications Research (BCR) work plan.

Work Stream	Target deadline	Status
Digital productivity project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release a digital productivity primer – mid June 2015• Release a labour productivity impacts report – mid-July 2015• Release firm case studies in December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital productivity primer released June 2015• Labour productivity impacts report to be released December 2015• Balance of digital productivity project referred to Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research as part of MOG changes, including firm case studies
Enablers and barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and apply a framework assessing if barriers and enablers exist in the communications sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enablers and barriers project under review given machinery of government changes
Commissioned projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic issues framework – by 30 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Issues Framework on track• NBN non-commercial services –

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Work Stream	Target deadline	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBN non-commercial services – 30 September 2015 • Review of data collection – no specific deadline • ICT statistics review – August 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deadline revised to November 2015 (on track) • Review of data collection – completed October 2015 • ICT statistics review – report to be provided to Government December 2015.
Capability building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research hub (now called digital library) – by 30 June 2016 • Data analytics – ongoing • Sharing a range of advanced tools – by 30 June 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital library to go live by 30 December 2015 • Data analytics – ongoing • Sharing a range of advanced tools – big data platform and R Studio deployed to Department in August 2015
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key facts – by October 2015 • Leading indicators – ongoing • Statistical snapshots – September 2015 • State of the industry – by 30 June 2016 • Communications investment pipeline – November 2015 • International competitiveness – November 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key facts – published October 2015 • Leading indicators – releases on December 2014, March 2015 and November 2015 • Statistical snapshots withdrawn as time intensive relative to value • State of the industry – on track for 30 June 2016 • Communications investment pipeline and international competitiveness – will be included as part of State of the Industry report
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing program of internal and external stakeholder engagement - ongoing • BCR advisory committee - ongoing • Hosting a range of workshops and discussions - ongoing • Focus on recruitment and secondment ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal and external stakeholder engagement – on track and ongoing • BCR advisory committee – Committee established and meets 3-4 times per year as required • Hosting a range of workshops – external stakeholder briefing program for 2015 was completed by 30 June 2015 • Focus on recruitment and secondment – the BCR has completed a number of recruitments and secondments