

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2015**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 150**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 7-8, 30/11/2015**

**Topic: Classic FM efficiencies – Travel Costs**

**Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** Can we go to the issue of efficiencies. With Classic FM I understand that current staffing in Perth and Hobart include one engineer each, and that they are doing fewer local presentations, and when they do, the ABC flies in crews from Sydney and Melbourne.

**Mr Scott:** Yes. We have looked at that. This is often about live concert recordings. We did the economics of this. Rather than having live recording teams based in every capital city around the country it is cheaper to fly people in when we are doing concerts. We are doing fewer recordings this year but we are still doing, I think, 300 a year. It is still a very significant number of concerts, but it is cheaper to do that.

**Senator XENOPHON:** Even with all the travel costs and—

**Mr Scott:** Yes. We would not have done it, otherwise.

**Senator XENOPHON:** How much is the difference?

**Mr Scott:** I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator XENOPHON:** Yes, put it on notice. I understand you would not have that figure available now.

**Mr Scott:** This is not being driven by ideology.

**Senator XENOPHON:** I did not mention ideology, at all.

**Mr Scott:** I know. If we did not think it was an economically efficient thing to do, or in the interests of the service broadly, we would not have done it.

**Senator XENOPHON:** I think the best thing to do is to put some questions on notice about what you say the savings are.

**Mr Scott:** Yes, I am happy to.

**Answer:**

As a result of budget cuts in 2014, ABC Classic FM made one music producer position in Perth redundant. As a result, a producer is now sent to Perth by ABC Classic FM management as required.

The cost of sending a producer to Perth as required in 2015 was \$12 233. This represents a saving of \$112 611 to the Corporation.