

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 44

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 27/10/2016

Topic: Copyright and Digital Economy - Report

Senator Carr, Kim asked:

1. Regarding the Australian Law Reform Commission's report Copyright and Digital Economy:
 - (a) What contribution did the Department make to this inquiry? Please provide a detailed account of any input.
 - (b) What contribution did the Department make to the subsequent Ernst & Young cost benefit analysis? Please provide a detailed account of any input.

Answer:

1.
 - (a) Nil. The Department of Communications (as it was then known) did not make a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry on *Copyright and the Digital Economy*. At that time, the Attorney-General's Department was responsible for copyright.
 - (b) The Ernst & Young (E&Y) cost benefit analysis (CBA) was commissioned by the Attorney-General's Department and responsibility for the project transferred with changes to the Administrative Arrangements Order to the Department of Communications and the Arts on 21 September 2015. The CBA was an independent analysis designed to assist the Australian Government's consideration of the ALRC's key recommendations in its Final Report *Copyright and the Digital Economy* relating to fair use and fair dealing exceptions. The Department did not put in a formal submission to the CBA project and was not formally part of the consultation process. The Department was involved in early discussions with E&Y about the objectives and scope of the project, had ongoing liaison on the progress of the project, and provided comments on the draft report.