

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Australia Network Tender - ABC

Senator: Senator Birmingham

Question reference number: 41

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. What role does PM&C have in relation to the negotiation of contract term with the ABC? Is PM&C required to approve the contract terms?
2. What discussions has PM&C had with DBCDE or DFAT since the announcement that the ABC will hold the Australia Network contract in perpetuity regarding this announcement, the ongoing operation of the Australia Network, or the tender process?
3. What discussions has PM&C had with the ABC since it was awarded the Australia Network contract regarding the ongoing operation of the Australia Network service?
4. Has PMC had input into the development of the contract between the Government and the ABC for the operation of the Australia Network? Please detail.

Answer:

1. PM&C is participating in discussions with DBCDE, DFAT and other relevant agencies to settle advice to the Government on the long-term arrangements for the Australia Network service.
These matters remain under consideration by Government.
2. See the response to part 1 above.
3. The ABC outlined its proposal for ongoing arrangements for the Australia Network service at Senate Additional Estimates on 14 February 2012 and PM&C has had discussions with the ABC about the details of this proposal.

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4. These matters remain under consideration by the Government. PM&C is participating in discussions to settle advice to the Government on the long-term arrangements for the Australia Network service.