



Minister  CoS  Adviser  
 Received in the Office of the Minister for  
 Broadband, Communications and  
 Digital Economy (Parliament House)

16 DEC 2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY:  
 Chief of Staff  MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
 Adviser  CANBERRA  
 Department

REPLY BY:  
 Minister  / / Adviser   
 Chief of Staff  Department

URGENT REPLY BY / /  
 APPROPRIATE ACTION  
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
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THE HON KEVIN RUDD MP

Senator The Hon Stephen Conroy  
 Minister for Broadband, Communications  
 and the Digital Economy  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

As you are aware, on 22 November 2010 the Government decided to put out to open tender a ten year contract for Australia's international television broadcasting service, Australia Network. The current five year contract between the Government and the ABC, for the delivery of the Australia Network service by the ABC, expires on 8 August 2011.

Following my consultations with the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on the details of the proposed tender, including new requirements to be included in the contract to better define and measure performance, the tender will be advertised and will remain open for one month. A Tender Evaluation Board will consider submissions (including cost estimates) and make recommendations to Ministers during April 2011.

Given the importance of this tender, I am keen to ensure that the Tender Evaluation Board has the best possible skills to assess submissions and that its deliberations will satisfy all probity requirements. The Board will be led by an independent Chairperson appointed by me. I seek your agreement to the participation of a senior officer of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy as a member of the Board. I am also writing to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation to seek their nomination of a representative each from their departments.

Should you agree, the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy nominee would initially assist with the development of tender evaluation criteria in parallel with preparation of the tender documentation, and then participate in the Board's deliberations during March - April 2011. Secretariat services will be provided by the Tender Secretariat, located in DFAT.

The DFAT point of contact is Margaret Adamson, Assistant Secretary, Australia Network Tender Secretariat. She can be reached on (02) 6261 9602 or [margaret.adamson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:margaret.adamson@dfat.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Kevin Rudd

