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The current contract with the ABC expires on 8 August 2011. Accordingly, the Government will exercise its option under the existing contract to extend the service operated by the ABC for six months until 8 February 2012. The amended Australia Network Request for Tender will be released shortly and a decision on Preferred Tenderer is expected to be taken by September 2011.

In making this decision, the Government also considered the significance of the service to Australia's foreign interests and concluded that the decision on the Preferred Tenderer will be referred for Cabinet consideration.

Media inquiries

- Minister's office: (02) 6277 7500
- DFAT Media Liaison: (02) 6261 1555

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