



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2016-17
Tuesday, 28 February 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Committee Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts Portfolio commencing with general questions of the department, Australia Post, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) and NBN Co. The committee agreed to dismiss the Department in relation to Programs: 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services; and 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development. The following agencies were also dismissed without questioning: Screen Australia; Australia Council; National Film Sound and Archive of Australia; National Library of Australia; Children's eSafety Commissioner; and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The committee will hold a spill-over hearing, at a date yet to be determined, to examine the Department of Communications and the Arts and those agencies dismissed today.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- the remuneration of Australia Post's Managing Director and the Government's announcement that the Remuneration Tribunal will oversee the remuneration set for the Managing Director;
- the setting of short and long-term incentives for Australia Post's senior executives remuneration;
- Australia Post's enterprise bargaining negotiations;
- payments made to licensed post offices;
- Australia Post's share in Dubai-based company Aramex;
- Australia Post's community service obligations;
- Australia Post's workers compensation claims and bonus payments related to lost-time injury rates;
- Australian made content on television;
- an update on the ACMA Review;
- update on the Copyright Bill;
- update on the Marrakesh Treaty;
- SBS's budget position;
- SBS's face up to racism campaign;
- television shows broadcast on NITV;
- ABC Board appointments;
- ABC's cuts to shortwave radio service in the Northern Territory and the Pacific;

- proposed structural changes to the ABC;
- proportion of ABC staff based in regional areas;
- ABC's editorial policies;
- audio descriptions service provision on ABC's iView platform;
- satellite and wireless NBN footprint;
- responsibilities of retail service providers and NBN Co;
- update on Skymuster;
- NBN peak funding; and
- NBN Chief Executive Officer remuneration package.