



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Wednesday, 24 May 2017
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.55pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Old Parliament House, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Special Broadcasting Service, Australia Post and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Some of the topics discussed by the committee included:

- funding for under-represented sports on pay TV, including women's and niche sports;
- restrictions on gambling advertising during live sports events;
- the final report on the Review of the Australian Communications and Media Authority ;
- the future scope of the monthly broadband tax for fixed-line NBN users;
- renegotiation of the universal service obligation agreement with Telstra;
- plans for the expansion of the National Gallery of Australia;
- the mobile black-spots program;
- SBS's policies and editorial independence;
- administration by Australia Post of the Licensed Post Office Agreement;
- audio transcription services;
- controversy over Anzac Day Facebook posts by Ms Yassmin Abdel-Magied;
- ABC's compliance with the Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy;
- redundancies resulting from the strategic restructure of the ABC; and
- cutting of shortwave transmission services to the NT and international audiences.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 25 May 2017 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Screen Australia, Australia Council and NBN Co Ltd.