

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 30 May 2013 from 9.03 am to 10.57 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (BCDE) portfolio, including the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australia Post and the NBN Co.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the handling of asbestos in telecommunications infrastructure and recent media reports about the roles of Telstra and the NBN
- the use of section 313 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* for website blocking purposes, including which agencies are entitled to use the provisions
- the amount SBS spends on local content and content to be commissioned
- the take up rates under the Household Assistance Scheme and the switch to digital
- proposed changes to live odds advertising during sports broadcasts
- the award salary for postal workers and progress of current enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations
- the recent launch of the Australia Post digital mailbox service
- the reasons for the substantial corrigendum to p.28 of the BCDE Portfolio Budget Statement about program expenses for the Centre for ICT Excellence
- complaints about the small typeface and smaller size of telephone books.