

## Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 27 May 2015 from 9 am until 6.16 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Communications portfolio, including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), and Australia Post.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- Budget night functions,
- the Whole of Government review of communications and the deregulation agenda for 2015,
- the review of the Spectrum Management Framework,
- the licensing and regulation of new technologies using the broadcasting and mobile spectrums,
- ABC staffing numbers, and redundancies and efficiencies in content, support services, and corporate services,
- the digital content fund,
- the ABC's Regional Division and live streaming of ABC regional radio stations,
- the interviewing style of particular ABC journalists,
- Mr Mark Scott's contract as ABC Managing Director,
- coverage of the National Broadband Network by the ABC and analysis of the Coalition Government's National Broadband Network by the ABC's Promise Checker,
- the process for choosing the panel on the ABC TV program *Q&A*,
- particular ABC programs, including the new format of *Lateline* and the documentary *The Killing Fields*,
- the number of media managers in ABC news operations,
- the ABC's consolidation of its property portfolio,
- coverage of football by SBS, including the Women's FIFA World Cup, the A-League and the Champions' League,
- the termination of the employment of reporter Mr Scott McIntyre,
- particular SBS programs, including the return of 'Go Back to Where You Came From' and the production process, costs, recruiting of participants, filming timeline and promotional material in relation to *Struggle Street*,
- the cost to SBS of its participation in Eurovision ,
- SBS's hybrid structure,
- advertising on SBS, including changes to advertising limits and current advertising revenue,

- the refusal by SBS to accept an advertisement by the Australian Marriage Forum during the broadcast of the Mardi Gras,
- SBS's content and its Charter obligations,
- SBS's commissioning television budget,
- information concerning Australia Post's PostConnect contract,
- the take up of the MyDigital Mailbox,
- consultations with stakeholders regarding reforms to Australia Post,
- Australia Post mail volumes, print post deliveries and the price of stamps,
- Australia Post franchisees and the Local Post Office Forum, and
- the remuneration of Australia Post's Managing Director.