



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Wednesday, 21 October 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.54pm.

The committee called the communications-related outcomes of the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications portfolio, including:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australian Communications and Media Authority; Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Special Broadcasting Service Corporation; and Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- government relief package supporting Australian media businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- purpose of the \$10M Foxtel's Fox Sports grant;
- timing of Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications annual report;
- prevalence of gambling advertising during COVID-19;
- changes to NBN Co's Multi Technology Mix funding;
- ACCC's draft news media bargaining code;
- mobile black spot program;
- new National Relay Service provider;
- Australian Content Standard and the planned modified content quota;
- 'Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge' program aired on ABC;
- ABC budget allocation and job losses;
- ABC's podcast 'Coronacast';
- regional transmission services;
- diversity in languages of programming;
- funding in the Budget for SBS;
- SBS's response to the pandemic, bushfires and floods;
- impact of COVID-19 on producers of television content;
- COVID-19 impact on e-safety; and
- emerging forms of online harm.

The committee will meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 22 October 2020 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, with the communications and arts-related outcomes and agencies of the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications portfolio, including: Australian Postal Corporation; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australia Council; Classification Board; Screen Australia; and NBN Co Limited.