



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019-20
Tuesday, 22 October 2019
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 11.00pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, Screen Australia, Australia Post, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Australia Council, National Library of Australia, Australian Broadcasting Corporation and NBN Co Limited.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- campaign for legislative reform to strengthen press freedom in Australia;
- additional funding for the ABC's Enhanced Newsgathering initiative;
- new National Performing Arts Partnership Framework to replace the Performing Arts Framework;
- update on the Location Incentive Funding Program;
- number of complaints received by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner's Cyber Report investigative unit;
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner's initiatives to promote e-Safety in schools;
- final report of the Government's efficiency review of the National Broadcasters;
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's inquiry into digital platforms;
- support provided under the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund;
- new contract to deliver the National Relay Service;
- location of mobile base stations under the Mobile Black Spot Program;
- delivery of audio description services in Australia;
- expenditure of the Department of Communications and the Arts on promotional material;
- Government's \$22.5 million Live Music Australia initiative;
- funding for the National Library of Australia's digitisation policy;
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC's) review of its property portfolio;
- ABC's airing of content from broadcaster Al Jazeera;
- Government's partnership with Free TV Australia to provide Australian commercial content to Pacific broadcasters;
- NBN Co's promotion of its Enterprise Ethernet wholesale broadband product; and
- provision of NBN satellite services at Wudinna, South Australia.