

The Senate

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**Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

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Additional estimates 2016–17

April 2017

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# Committee membership

## *Committee members*

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, Chair	LP, Western Australia
Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, Deputy Chair	ALP, Tasmania
Senator Anthony Chisholm	ALP, Queensland
Senator Jonathon Duniam	LP, Tasmania
Senator Anne Urquhart	ALP, Tasmania
Senator John Williams	NATS, New South Wales

## *Senators in attendance*

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz	LP, Tasmania
Senator Chris Back	LP, Western Australia
Senator Catriona Bilyk	ALP, Tasmania
Senator Carol Brown	ALP, Tasmania
Senator David Bushby	LP, Tasmania
Senator Sam Dastyari	ALP, New South Wales
Senator Richard Di Natale	AG, Victoria
Senator Stirling Griff	NXT, South Australia
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young	AG, South Australia
Senator Jane Hume	LP, Victoria
Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore	NXT, South Australia
Senator Kimberley Kitching	ALP, Victoria
Senator David Leyonhjem	LDP, New South Wales
Senator Sue Lines	ALP, Western Australia
Senator Scott Ludlam	AG, Western Australia
Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	ALP, Northern Australia
Senator Bridget McKenzie	NATS, Victoria
Senator Claire Moore	ALP, Queensland
Senator Deborah O'Neill	ALP, New South Wales
Senator Lee Rhiannon	AG, New South Wales
Senator Janet Rice	AG, Victoria
Senator Malcolm Roberts	PHON, Queensland
Senator Rachel Siewert	AG, Western Australia
Senator Nick Xenophon	IND, South Australia

## **Secretariat**

Ms Christine McDonald, Secretary  
Mr Michael Perks, Acting Research Officer



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# Chapter 1

## Additional Estimates 2016–17

### Introduction

1.1 On 9 February 2017, the Senate referred the following to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (the committee):

- Particulars of proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2016 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2016–17];
- Particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2016 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2016–17]; and
- Final Budget Outcome 2015–16.<sup>1</sup>

1.2 A reporting date of 28 March 2017 was set for the committee's report on the 2016–17 Additional Estimates<sup>2</sup>. On 21 March 2017, the Senate agreed to extend the tabling date to 20 April 2017 to allow the committee to complete its examination of the proposed additional expenditure and outcomes for the Communications and the Arts portfolio.<sup>3</sup>

### Portfolio coverage

1.3 The committee has responsibility for examining the expenditure and outcomes of the following:

- Environment and Energy Portfolio; and
- Communications and the Arts Portfolio.<sup>4</sup>

### Hearings

1.4 The committee's examination of the Environment and Energy Portfolio took place on Monday, 27 February 2017.

1.5 The committee's examination of the Communications and the Arts Portfolio took place on Tuesday, 28 February 2017. The committee agreed, pursuant to standing order 26(4), to hold a further hearing on Friday, 24 March 2017 to continue examination of the programs and agencies not called on 28 February 2017 as follows:

- Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services;

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1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 26, 9 February 2017, pp. 888–889.

2 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 13, 8 November 2016, p. 412.

3 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 32, 21 March 2017, p. 1097.

4 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 2, 31 August 2016, pp. 75–76.

- Program 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development;
- Australia Council;
- Australian Communications and Media Authority;
- National Film and Sound Archive;
- National Library of Australia;
- Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner; and
- Screen Australia.

1.6 The committee took evidence from Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for the Environment; Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources representing the Minister for the Environment; Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications and Minister for the Arts, together with officers from the relevant departments and agencies. The committee thanks the Ministers, departmental secretaries and the officers who appeared before it.

1.7 The following agencies were not required to attend:

*Environment and Energy Portfolio*

- National Wind Farm Commissioner;
- Snowy Hydro Limited; and
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust;

*Communications and the Arts Portfolio*

- Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd (Creative Partnerships Australia);
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School;
- Australian National Maritime Museum;
- Bundanon Trust;
- Classification Board;
- Classification Review Board;
- National Gallery of Australia;
- National Museum of Australia;
- National Portrait Gallery of Australia; and
- Old Parliament House.

**Questions on notice and Hansard transcript**

1.8 In accordance with standing order 26(9)(a), the committee set Friday, 28 April 2017, as the date for the return of written answers, or additional information, in response to questions placed on notice during the hearings held on

27 and 28 February 2017. The committee agreed to set 1 May 2017 as the date for the return of answers to questions placed on notice for the hearing held on 24 March 2017.

1.9 Written answers and information provided to the committee in response to questions on notice arising from the hearings are tabled in the Senate and posted on the committee's webpage. Links to the transcripts of these public hearings and to answers and additional information are available on the internet at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Senate\\_Estimates/eccte/estimates/ad\\_d1617/index](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_Estimates/eccte/estimates/ad_d1617/index)

### **Answers to questions on notice – Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016–17**

1.10 The committee's examination of the Department of the Environment and Energy and its agencies for the Supplementary Budget Estimates took place on 17 October and 21 October 2016. The committee set Wednesday, 30 November 2016, as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice.

1.11 The committee's examination of the Communications and the Arts Portfolio took place on 18 October 2016. The committee held a further hearing with NBN Co on 25 November 2016. The committee set Wednesday, 30 November 2016, as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice from the hearing on 18 October 2016. The committee set Friday, 20 January 2017, as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice from its hearing held on 25 November 2016.

#### ***Timeliness of answers to questions on notice***

1.12 The committee acknowledged its appreciation to the Department of the Environment and Energy for providing answers to its 354 questions taken on notice by the due date.<sup>5</sup>

1.13 The Communications and the Arts portfolio provided 94 of its 158 answers to questions on notice from its hearing on 18 October by the due date of Wednesday 30 November 2016. The remaining 64 answers to questions on notice were provided between December and January 2017. Of the 35 questions taken on notice from the committee's hearing with NBN Co on 25 November 2016, six answers were provided by the due date of 20 January 2017. The remaining answers were provided to the committee between 30 January and 18 February 2017.

#### ***Claims of commercial confidentiality***

1.14 The committee has examined answers to questions on notice from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016–17 in relation to claims that information was not provided on the basis that it was commercial-in-confidence. The committee notes

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5 Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 February 2017, p. 5.

that some answers from the Department of Communications and the Arts and agencies in the portfolio contained this claim. While a number of answers included an indication of the potential commercial harm of providing the information, some answers claiming confidentiality did not provide any basis for such a claim.

1.15 The committee again draws the attention of departments and agencies to Senate Procedural Order of Continuing Effect No. 11 of 30 October 2003 relating to claims for the withholding of information on the grounds that it is commercial-in-confidence.<sup>6</sup> Without the required statement indicating the commercial harm that may result from the disclosure of the information, the committee is unable to consider whether it should require the answer or should not press the question.

### **Senators' guidance document**

1.16 The committee would again like to thank the Department of the Environment and Energy for preparing a 'guidance document' for the Additional Estimates hearings. The guidance document provided a comprehensive overview of the outcome structure of the department and was very helpful to committee members in establishing the correct area in which to ask their questions.

### **Record of proceedings**

1.17 This report does not attempt to analyse the evidence presented during the hearings. However, it does provide a brief list of some of the key issues that were covered by the committee for each portfolio.

### **Note on references and additional information**

1.18 References to the Hansard transcript are to the proof Hansard; page numbers may vary between the proof and official Hansard transcript.

1.19 Copies of the Hansard transcripts, documents tabled at the hearings, and additional information received after the hearings are tabled in the Senate and available on the committee's website.

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6 The Senate, *Standing Orders and other orders of the Senate*, August 2015, p. 131.

# Chapter 2

## Portfolio specific issues

2.1 This chapter provides an overview of some of the matters raised during the committee's hearings on the Additional Estimates 2016–17. The discussion follows the outcome and agency structure.

### Environment Portfolio

#### *Department of the Environment*

2.2 The committee opened the hearing with the Department of the Environment and Energy by asking general questions about:

- updated staffing and funding figures for the department (pp. 5–7);
- science of climate change and emissions reduction programs (pp. 9–12); and
- the potential development of new coal-fired power stations (p. 13).

*Outcome 1: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems, environment and heritage through research, information management, supporting natural resource management, establishing and managing Commonwealth Protected areas, and reducing and regulating the use of pollutants and hazardous substances*

2.3 The committee called officers in relation to Program 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment. Matters discussed by the committee included:

- bio-diversity related programs (pp. 104–105);
- Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) (pp. 106–108);
- funding projections for the National Landcare Program (pp. 107–108); and
- the Threatened Species Strategy and recovery plans (pp. 110–112).

2.4 The committee called officers in relation to Program 1.2: Environmental Information and Research and Program 1.3: Land Sector Initiatives. The committee discussed the impending release of the next *State of the Environment* report and the spread of mange in Tasmania's wombat populations (p. 103).

2.5 Officers were called in relation to Program 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment. Matters raised included:

- the Australian Government's submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to include the Budj Bim cultural landscape on the World Heritage Tentative List (pp. 30–31, 34);
- allocation of staffing to World Heritage issues in the department (pp. 31–32);

- consultation with Indigenous stakeholders in relation to potential sites in Cape York for inclusion in future World Heritage List nominations (pp. 30–32);
- funding for the eradication of yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (pp. 32–33);
- threats to remaining giant kelp forests on Tasmania's east coast (p. 33); and
- Japan's scientific whaling program in the Southern Ocean (pp. 33–34).

2.6 Officers from the department were called in relation to Program 1.5: Environmental Regulation. Matters canvassed included:

- monitoring of environmental indicators and trends (p. 86);
- upcoming review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (pp. 87–87);
- reopening of the Tarkine coastal trails in Tasmania (pp. 92, 98); and
- RFAs and the protection of threatened species (pp. 94–97).

2.7 The committee called officers from the department in relation to Program 1.6: Management of Hazardous Wastes, Substances and Pollutants. Matters discussed included:

- an update in relation to the *Better fuel for cleaner air—Discussion paper* released in December 2016 (pp. 99–100);
- container deposit schemes for waste (p. 100); and
- the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Summit in April 2017 (pp. 100–102).

*Outcome 2: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and contribute to the negotiation of an effective global solution to climate change, through developing and implementing a national response to climate change*

2.8 The committee agreed to put on notice any questions in relation to Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and Program 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change (pp. 115, 116).

*Outcome 3: Advancement of Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic by protecting, administering and researching the region*

2.9 Officers from the department were called in relation to Program 3.1: Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence. Dr Gwen Fenton, the Chief Scientist of the Australian Antarctic Division, represented Dr Nick Gales as Acting Director in his absence. Matters examined included:

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- the splitting of the Larsen C ice shelf in the Antarctica Peninsula and changes in the Antarctic ice sheet (pp. 27–28, 29);
- the establishment of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Ross Sea through the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the proposed East Antarctic MPA (pp. 27–28); and
- progress on the program to modernise the research base on Macquarie Island (pp. 29–30).

*Outcome 4: Improve the health of rivers and freshwater ecosystems and water use efficiency through implementing water reforms, and ensuring enhanced sustainability, efficiency and productivity in the management and use of water resources*

2.10 The committee called officers of the department in relation to Program 4.1: Water Reform and Program 4.2: Commonwealth Environmental Water and examined both programs concurrently. Matters discussed included water allocations in the Murray-Darling Basin system (pp. 117–121).

*Outcome 5: Support the reliable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets through improving Australia's energy efficiency, performance and productivity for the community*

2.11 The committee continued its examination of the department by calling officers in relation to Program 5.1: Energy. Matters discussed included:

- indemnities from the Commonwealth Government for future carbon costs (pp. 63–64);
- the interruptions to electricity supplies in South Australia (pp. 68–72, 75–76);
- the role and reliability standards of the Australian Electricity Market Operator (AEMO) (pp. 65, 73–77); and
- the effect of electricity privatisation on the reliability of the National Electricity Market (NEM) (pp. 76–77).

### ***Australian Renewable Energy Agency***

2.12 The committee called officers from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and canvassed the following matters:

- comparative advantages of various energy technologies (pp. 49–50);
- impacts of the recent cuts to ARENA's budget (pp. 50–52); and
- the proposal for a solar-thermal plant at Port Augusta (p. 52).

### ***Bureau of Meteorology***

2.13 Officers were called from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and matters examined included:

- the frequency and intensity of heatwaves in Australia (pp. 21, 25–26);
- methodologies used by the BOM to measure temperature and climate trends (pp. 22–23); and
- online seasonal outlooks and forecasts programs for rural and regional communities (p. 24).

### ***Clean Energy Finance Corporation***

2.14 The committee called officers from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). The committee noted that this was the last appearance of Mr Oliver Yates, Chief Executive Officer, before the committee at Estimates. In his opening statement Mr Yates highlighted the role played by the estimates process:

...the role the committee operates is very important for all government organisations so that they know they will be publicly scrutinised and held to the highest standards—not only are our own organisation but any others that have to appear before you. I would like to thank many of the senators, some of whom are here and some who are not, who have provided our organisation with great support over the four and half years that I have been CEO.<sup>7</sup>

2.15 Other matters discussed included:

- the economic viability of new coal-fired power stations (pp. 41–43);
- renewable energy storage solutions including carbon capture and storage (CCS) (pp. 43–46);
- structure and legislative framework of the CEFC (p. 44); and
- the solar-thermal power station proposal for Port Augusta in South Australia (pp. 47–48).

### ***Clean Energy Regulator***

2.16 Officers of the Clean Energy Regulator were called and matters examined included:

- the 2020 renewable energy target (pp. 54–55);
- the obligations under Large-scale Renewable Energy Target certificates (pp. 54–62); and
- impact of the renewable energy target on electricity prices (p. 62).

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<sup>7</sup> Mr Oliver Yates, Chief Executive Officer, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 February 2017, p. 39.

### ***Climate Change Authority***

2.17 The committee called officers from the Climate Change Authority and canvassed the following matters:

- update on the Climate Change 2017 Review (p. 35);
- construction of new coal-fired power stations (pp. 36–37);
- responses to the Authority's third draft report of its *Special Review: Australia's Climate Policy Options* (pp. 37–38);
- motor vehicle emissions standards (p. 38); and
- the benefits of the Emissions Reduction Fund to the livestock industry (p. 39).

### ***Director of National Parks***

2.18 The committee called the Director of National Parks, Ms Sally Barnes, and discussed the flowing matters:

- funding for the establishment and management of national parks under the National Reserve System (pp. 77–78);
- an update on the new draft management plans for Commonwealth Marine Reserves (pp. 79–80); and
- management of the Kakadu Buffalo Farm (pp. 80–83).

### ***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority***

2.19 The committee called officers from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Matters examined included:

- an update on the conservation status of the reef by the World Heritage Committee (pp. 14–15);
- the UNESCO 41st World Heritage Committee session in Poland in July 2017 (p. 16);
- the mass bleaching event on the reef during 2016 (pp. 17–18, 19);
- land clearing and its effect on the water quality (pp. 18–9); and
- foreign illegal fishing on the reef (p. 19).

### ***Office of the Supervising Scientist***

2.20 The committee called the Office of the Supervising Scientist and discussed the rehabilitation of the Ranger uranium mine site including advice in relation to the proposed closure criteria (pp. 83–86).

## Communications and the Arts Portfolio

2.21 As noted in chapter one, the committee conducted its examination of the Communications and the Arts Portfolio over two days: 28 February 2017 and 24 March 2017. On 24 March 2017, the committee completed its examination of the Department of Communications and the Arts and NBN Co as well as a number of agencies within the portfolio.

### ***Department of Communications and the Arts***

2.22 The committee commenced its examination of the Communications and the Arts Portfolio on 28 February 2017 by inviting an opening statement from the Minister for Communications and for the Arts, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield. The Minister drew the committee's attention to the recent announcement of the resignation of Mr Ahmed Fahour as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Australia Post (pp. 2–4).

2.23 At the conclusion of the Minister's opening statement, the committee discussed issues related to senior executive remuneration (pp. 4–7, 9–16, and 18–22).

2.24 The committee called officers from the Department of Communications and the Arts and the following general matters were discussed:

- funding for the performing arts in vocational education and training (pp. 7–9);
- the application of efficiency dividends (pp. 16–18);
- quotas for drama and children's content on Australian television (pp. 22–23, 24–25);
- 'safe harbour' provisions (pp. 23–24);
- review of the spectrum management framework (pp. 25–27); and
- media ownership rules (pp. 31–33).

2.25 The committee canvassed issues related to Programs 1.1 and 2.1 at its hearing on 24 March 2017 as follows:

#### *Outcome 1: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and programme delivery, so all Australians can realise the potential of digital technologies and communications services*

2.26 Officers were called in relation to Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services. Matters canvassed included:

- NBN electorate briefs (pp. 45–49);
- the Mobile Black Spot Program (pp. 49–54);
- NBN rollout and company performance (pp. 54–55);
- proposed civil penalties for 'revenge porn' (pp. 55–56); and

- reform of the spectrum management framework (pp. 56–58).

*Outcome 2: Participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression*

2.27 The committee called officers in relation to Program 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development and discussed the following matters:

- funding for the Australia Council (pp. 22–24);
- the National Opera Review (pp. 24–26); and
- intellectual property rights (pp. 26–27).

***Australian Broadcasting Corporation***

2.28 The committee called officers of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and discussed the following matters:

- rural and regional remote services including the termination of shortwave services in the Northern Territory (pp. 78–84, 88–92 and 93–94);
- broadcast services to the South Pacific region (pp. 84–87);
- broadcasting during emergencies (pp. 84–87);
- appointments to the ABC board (pp. 92–93, 94–95);
- editorial judgments with regard to specific programs (pp. 95–97);
- trials of audio description services on broadcast television (pp. 97–99); and
- ABC funding and priorities (pp. 99–102).

***Australia Post***

2.29 In his opening statement, Mr John Stanhope, Chairman of Australia Post, addressed the issue of senior executive remuneration in the organisation (pp. 39–40). At the invitation of the committee, Mr Ahmed Fahour made an opening statement and summarised for the committee some of the achievements during his term of office and future challenges facing the organisation (pp. 40–41).

2.30 At the conclusion of both opening statements, the committee discussed the issue of senior executive remuneration in the organisation (pp. 42–53, 54–57 and 59).

2.31 Other matters discussed by the committee included:

- the licensed post offices network (pp. 53–54, 66–67 and 75–76);
- Australia Post's investment in Aramax (pp. 57–59);
- protection of the Australia Post trademark (pp. 60–62);
- revenue from the rental of post office boxes (pp. 62–63);
- costs of meeting community service obligations (pp. 63–65);

- time lost through injuries and workers compensation issues (pp. 67–68 and 71–74); and
- workforce bargaining (pp. 77–78).

2.32 At the conclusion of the committee's examination, the Chair acknowledged Mr Fahour's contribution to the estimates process over his seven year tenure at Australia Post.<sup>8</sup>

### ***National Broadband Network Co Ltd***

2.33 One 28 February 2017, Mr Bill Morrow, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement and provided the committee with an update on the progress of the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) since the Supplementary Budget Estimates (pp. 102–103).

2.34 The committee canvassed the following matters with NBN Co:

- the current extent of coverage by the network (pp. 105–108, 113, 117 and 130–131);
- provision of information to customers (pp. 108–111, 122);
- NBN relations with retail service providers (pp. 111–113);
- technical issues concerning the roll-out of the network (pp. 113–117);
- network capability and performance (pp. 117–128);
- repairing network faults (pp. 127, 134–136);
- NBN executive remuneration (p. 128); and
- investment in future technology upgrades (pp. 132–134).

2.35 Officers from NBN Co were called to appear before the committee at the hearing on 24 March 2017. The following matters were discussed:

- potential use of NBN Co assets to support a mobile network (pp. 58–59);
- future technology developments (p. 59); and
- complaints resolution processes (pp. 68–73).

### ***Special Broadcasting Service***

2.36 The committee called Mr Michael Ebeid, Managing Director and CEO of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), who provided an opening statement acknowledging the recent appointment of Dr Hass Dellal as SBS Chairman (p. 33). The following matters were discussed:

- funding position and budget cuts (pp. 33–35);

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8 Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 February 2017, p. 78.

- involvement in government deradicalisation efforts (pp. 34–35);
- SBS's *Face Up to Racism* documentaries (p. 36);
- autonomy and audience reach of the National Indigenous Television (NITV) service (pp. 36, 38); and
- participation in community forums (p. 37).

### **Agencies examined on 24 March 2017**

2.37 The committee examined the following agencies on Friday, 24 March 2017:

- Australia Council;
- Australian Communications and Media Authority;
- National Film and Sound Archive;
- National Library of Australia;
- Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner; and
- Screen Australia.

#### ***Australia Council***

2.38 The committee called officers from the Australia Council, who appeared via videoconference, and discussed changes to funding arrangements (pp. 3–9) and decision making processes for selecting arts projects (p. 10).

#### ***Australian Communications and Media Authority***

2.39 The committee called officers of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and discussed:

- resourcing implications for ACMA's implementation of the recommendations of the *Spectrum Review Report* (pp. 28–30);
- ACMA's management of outsourced providers (pp. 30–33);
- illegal porting of mobile phone numbers (pp. 33–34);
- review of media content rules (pp. 34–38); and
- conversion of AM to FM radio licences (pp. 36–38).

### ***National Film and Sound Archive***

2.40 The committee called officers from the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) and discussed the impact of funding cuts on the programs and operation of the NFSA (pp. 15–17).

### ***National Library of Australia***

2.41 This was the Director-General's first appearance at Estimates and the committee welcomed Dr Marie-Louise Ayers appearing in her new position. Matters raised included:

- impacts of the efficiency dividend on staffing and library services (pp. 11–13);
- funding and operation of the Trove database (p. 12–13); and
- the library's internal complaints handling processes (pp. 13–15).

### ***Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner***

2.42 The chair welcomed Ms Julie Inman-Grant, Commissioner, to her first appearance before the committee at Estimates and invited her to make an opening statement. Ms Inman-Grant provided the committee with a brief overview of the role and anticipated expanded responsibilities of the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner:

I think 2017 is going to be a year of extension and further opportunity. You may know that there is legislation pending in the House, tabled on 9 February by Paul Fletcher, which will expand the remit of the office from the children's e-commissioner's office to the e-safety commissioner's office. That will allow us to expand our remit and to really meet the safety needs of all Australians, particularly those from vulnerable communities.<sup>9</sup>

2.43 Other matters discussed included:

- the removal of online cyber-bullying material (pp. 39–40);
- implications for the anticipated name change to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner under the Enhancing Online Safety for Children Amendment Bill 2017 (pp. 41–42); and
- preventing the Australian advertising and marketing industry from inadvertently funding terrorism through 'programmatic advertising' (pp. 42–44).

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<sup>9</sup> Ms Julie Inman-Grant, Commissioner, Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 March 2017, p. 38.

***Screen Australia***

2.44 The committee called officers from Screen Australia and discussed the following matters:

- possible review into content quota rules (p. 17);
- greater representation of cultural and gender diversity in Australian television and film (pp. 18–21); and
- recent industry successes domestically and internationally (pp. 21–22).

**Senator Linda Reynolds CSC**  
**Chair**



# Appendix 1

## Additional Estimates programs

### The Senate BUSINESS OF COMMITTEES

This document is issued as a guide to Senators  
Business listed is subject to change

*It should be noted that times allocated for the consideration of outcomes, items and agencies within portfolios are indicative only.*

*Senators, staff and departments should liaise with secretariats on the progress of portfolios during the estimates process.*

### SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

**Public Hearings: ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FOR 2016–17**  
**Monday, 27 February and Tuesday, 28 February 2017**  
**Committee Room 2S3**  
**Parliament House**  
**Canberra ACT**

*To be televised on Channel 111/Radio 91.1*

[http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

**MONDAY, 27 February 2017**

**Time** **Environment and Energy Portfolio**

<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>General questions of the Department</b>
<b>9.45 am</b>	<b>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</b>
<b>Morning Tea: 10.25 am to 10.40 am</b>	
<b>10.40 am</b>	<b>Bureau of Meteorology</b>
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Program 3.1: Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence</b>
<b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Program 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment</b>
<b>12.00 pm</b>	<b>Climate Change Authority</b>
<b>Lunch: 12.25 pm to 1.25 pm</b>	
<b>1.25 pm</b>	<b>Clean Energy Finance Corporation</b>
<b>1.55 pm</b>	<b>Australian Renewable Energy Agency</b>
<b>2.25 pm</b>	<b>Clean Energy Regulator</b>

<b>2.55pm</b>	<b>Program 5.1: Energy</b>
<b>Afternoon Tea: 3.50 pm to 4.05 pm</b>	
<b>4.05 pm</b>	<b>Director of National Parks</b>
<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.5: Environmental regulation</b>
<b>5.25 pm</b>	<b>Office of the Supervising Scientist</b>
<b>5.35 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.6: Management of Hazardous Wastes, Substances and Pollutants</b>
<b>5.55 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.2: Environmental Information and Research</b>
<b>6.10 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.3: Carbon Pollution Reduction – Land Sector Initiatives</b>
<b>Dinner: 6.25 pm to 7.25 pm</b>	
<b>7.25 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment</b>
<b>8.25 pm</b>	<b>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>
<b>Tea Break: 9.00 pm to 9.15 pm</b>	
<b>9.15 pm</b>	<b>Program 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change</b>
<b>9.50 pm</b>	<b>Program 4.1: Water Reform</b>
<b>10.20 pm</b>	<b>Program 4.2: Commonwealth Environmental Water</b>
<b>11.00 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

**TUESDAY, 28 February 2017**

## Time Communications and the Arts Portfolio

<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>General questions of the Department</b>
<b>9.45 am</b>	<b>Australia Post</b>
	<b>Morning Tea: 10.15 am to 10.30 am</b>
<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Australia Post (continued)</b>
<b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Australian Broadcasting Corporation</b>
	<b>Lunch: 12.35 pm to 1.35 pm</b>
<b>1.35 pm</b>	<b>Screen Australia</b>
<b>1.55 pm</b>	<b>Australia Council</b>
<b>2.25 pm</b>	<b>National Film and Sound Archive of Australia</b>
<b>2.45 pm</b>	<b>National Library of Australia</b>
<b>3.05 pm</b>	<b>Special Broadcasting Service</b>
<b>3.35 pm</b>	<b>Children's eSafety Commissioner</b>
	<b>Afternoon Tea: 3.55 pm to 4.10 pm</b>
<b>4.10 pm</b>	<b>Australian Communications and Media Authority</b>

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<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Program 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development</b>
<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services</b>
	<b>Dinner 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm</b>
<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>NBN Co</b>
	<b>Tea Break: 9.00 pm to 9.15 pm</b>
<b>9.15 pm</b>	<b>NBN Co (continued)</b>
<b>11.00 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

## **The Senate BUSINESS OF COMMITTEES**

## **This document is issued as a guide to Senators**

**Business listed is subject to change**

*It should be noted that times allocated for the consideration of outcomes, items and agencies within portfolios are indicative only.*

*Senators, staff and departments should liaise with secretariats on the progress of portfolios during the estimates process.*

# SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

## Public Hearings: ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FOR 2016–17

Friday, 24 March 2017

## Committee Room 2S3

## Parliament House

## Canberra ACT

*To be televised on Channel 111/Radio 91.1*

[http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

**FRIDAY, 24 March 2017**

## Time Communications and the Arts Portfolio

<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>Australia Council</b> ( <i>via videoconference</i> )
<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>National Library of Australia</b>
<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>National Film and Sound Archive of Australia</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Screen Australia</b>
<b>Morning tea: 10.20 am to 10.35 am</b>	
<b>10.35 am</b>	<b>Program 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development</b>
<b>11.35 am</b>	<b>Australian Communications and Media Authority</b>
<b>12.05 pm</b>	<b>Children's eSafety Commissioner</b>
<b>Lunch: 12.25 pm to 1.25 pm</b>	
<b>1.25 pm</b>	<b>Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services</b>
<b>2.25 pm</b>	<b>NBN Co</b>
<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

## Appendix 2

### Tabled documents and additional information

#### Tabled documents

*Monday, 27 February 2017*

*Dr Gordon de Brouwer, Secretary, Department of the Environment and Energy:*

Department of the Environment and Energy outcome structure

Opening statement on behalf of the National Wind Farm Commissioner

*Tuesday, 28 February 2017*

*Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications, Minister for the Arts:*

Opening statement

Letter from Senator Dastyari to the Minister for Communications, dated 28 February 2017, regarding remuneration for top executives of NBN Co

Letter to Senator Dastyari from the Minister for Communications and Minister for Finance, dated 28 February 2017, regarding the remuneration of the CEO of NBN Co

*Mr John Stanhope AM, Chairman, Australia Post:*

Opening statement

*Mr Ahmed Fahour, Managing Director and Group CEO, Australia Post:*

Opening statement

#### Additional information

*Ms Sally Barnes, Director of National Parks:*

Letter correcting evidence given at Additional Estimates, dated 23 March 2017

*Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, Director-General, National Library of Australia:*

Letter correcting evidence given at Additional Estimates, dated 12 April 2017

