



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2018-19  
Tuesday, 19 February 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 10.08pm.

The committee called:

- Department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Australia Council, Screen Australia, Office of the eSafety Commissioner and NBN Co Limited.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- update on the progress of the Department's Universal Service Obligations Taskforce;
- timeframe for the release of the Government's Australian and Children's Screen Content Review;
- provision of Australian broadcasting services in the Asia Pacific;
- extensions to the current contracts for the management of the National Relay Service;
- appointment of the next Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation;
- update on the nomination of locations under the Mobile Black Spot Program;
- Australian Communications and Media Authority's latest 5G spectrum auction;
- criteria for the Australia Council's unfunded excellence grants;
- consultation in relation to the establishment of a National Indigenous Cultural Authority;
- funding and resources to support the development, production and marketing of Australian screen content;
- department's policies to support Indigenous arts and languages;
- Government's package of measures to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of James Cook's first voyage to Australia;
- \$30 million taxpayer grant to Fox Sports for coverage of women's and niche sports;
- reviews of the *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015* and Schedules 5 and 7 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (Online Content Scheme);
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner's targeting of programs to assist vulnerable groups;
- NBN Co Limited's launch of the new Sky Muster Plus satellite service;
- update on the rates of 'service class zero' premises; and
- performance testing of modems and routers used to supply National Broadband Network services.