



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Thursday, 24 May 2018
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 8.56pm.

The committee called:

- department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, continuing with the ABC, Department of Communications and the Arts, Creative Partnerships Australia, Australia Council, Screen Australia, and NBN Co Limited.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- errors in the company tax articles written by the ABC's chief economics correspondent, Emma Alberici;
- complaints lodged by the Prime Minister in relation to a television story aired by the ABC about research and innovation spending;
- Mobile Black Spot Program and the location of base stations;
- Productivity Commission's report into the future direction of a universal service obligation in the telecommunications market;
- compliance with the carrier and service provider rules;
- Australia's switchover from analogue to digital television;
- update on the Gender Matters initiative;
- Screen Australia's co-funding of the movie project 'Ride Like a Girl';
- staffing numbers at Screen Australia;
- Creative Partnerships Australia's funding levels;
- arts fundraising mentorships offered by Creative Partnerships Australia;
- update on the 2020 deadline for the completion of the National Broadband Network (NBN);
- NBN Co's third-quarter results for 2018;
- update on NBN Co's 5G trials with networking vendor Ericsson;
- whether NBN Co will reach its average revenue per user (ARPU) target for 2021;
- NBN Co's discussions with the Government in relation to its decision to halt the rollout of the HFC network; and
- deployment of fibre to the premises (FTTP) in brownfields areas.