



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2019-20
Thursday, 4 April 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 11.01pm.

The committee called:

- Department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Clean Energy Regulator, Director of National Parks and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and
- Department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Postal Corporation and Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- appointment of Mr Joshua Thomas as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on 18 March 2019;
- release of data in relation to land clearing in Queensland;
- Government's announcement that it will fund a Communities Environment Program;
- funding to secure the future of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program;
- Freedom of Information requests in relation to the export of 232 rare and endangered Australian birds between 2015 and November 2018;
- update on the Government's National Waste Policy action plan;
- updated assessment of the conservation status of the Leadbeater's possum;
- inspections of international bases in the Australian Antarctic territory;
- progress update on the replacement Antarctic icebreaking vessel;
- Australian Government's announced Climate Solutions Package;
- establishment of the Underwriting New Generation Investments program;
- timeframe for the release of the Government's Australian and Children's Screen Content Review;
- Government's legislative response following the terrorist attack in Christchurch;
- final report of the Government's efficiency review of the National Broadcasters;
- funding for the National Relay Service;
- Australia Post's decline in revenue in the face of decreasing letter volumes;
- recent Government appointments to the Board of Australia Post;
- ABC's airing of content from broadcaster Al Jazeera; and
- additional funding for the ABC's Enhanced Newsgathering initiative.

The committee agreed to release the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Australian Communications and Media Authority from the hearing.

The committee will next meet at **9.00 am** on Monday, 8 April 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- Department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Bureau of Meteorology, Snowy Hydro Limited, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, National Wind Farm Commissioner, Office of the Supervising Scientist and Climate Change Authority.