

The Senate

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Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee

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Budget estimates 2019–20

May 2019

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# Committee membership

## *Committee members*

Senator Jonathon Duniam, Chair	LP, Tasmania
Senator Janet Rice, Deputy Chair	AG, Victoria
Senator Anthony Chisholm	ALP, Queensland
Senator Steve Martin	NATS, Tasmania
Senator Anne Urquhart	ALP, Tasmania
Senator John Williams	NATS, New South Wales

## *Senators in attendance*

Senator Catryna Bilyk	ALP, Tasmania
Senator Slade Brockman	LP, Western Australia
Senator Richard Di Natale	AG, Victoria
Senator Peter Georgiou	PHON, Western Australia
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young	AG, South Australia
Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally	ALP, New South Wales
Senator Sue Lines	ALP, Western Australia
Senator Jenny McAllister	ALP, New South Wales
Senator Claire Moore	ALP, Queensland
Senator Deborah O'Neill	ALP, New South Wales
Senator Rex Patrick	CA, South Australia
Senator Rachel Siewert	AG, Western Australia
Senator Dean Smith	LP, Western Australia
Senator Duncan Spender	LDP, New South Wales
Senator Tim Storer	IND, South Australia
Senator Larissa Waters	AG, Queensland
Senator Peter Whish-Wilson	AG, Tasmania

## **Secretariat**

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



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# Chapter 1

## Budget Estimates 2019–20

### Introduction

1.1 On 2 April 2019, the Senate referred the following to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (the committee):

- Particulars of proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2019–20];
- Particulars of certain proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019–20]; and
- Particulars of proposed expenditure in relation to the parliamentary departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2019–20].<sup>1</sup>

1.2 A reporting date of 14 May 2019 was set for the committee's report to the Senate on its consideration of the 2019–20 Budget Estimates.<sup>2</sup>

### Portfolio coverage

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

- Environment and Energy; and
- Communications and the Arts.<sup>3</sup>

### Hearings

1.4 The committee examined both the Environment and Energy and the Communications and the Arts portfolios at the hearing on Thursday, 4 April 2019. Two further hearings for the Environment and Energy portfolio and the Communications and the Arts portfolio took place on Monday, 8 April 2019 and Tuesday, 9 April 2019 respectively.

1.5 The committee heard evidence from Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, representing the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Energy; Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation, representing the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Energy; Senator the

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1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 141, 2 April 2019, p. 4815.

2 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 133, 29 November 2018, p. 4329.

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

Hon Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications and the Arts; Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific, representing the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Energy and Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance, representing the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Energy, together with officers from the relevant departments and agencies. The committee thanks the Ministers, departmental secretaries and officers who appeared before it.

1.6 The following portfolio agencies were not required to appear:

*Environment and Energy portfolio*

- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder; and
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

*Communications and the Arts portfolio*

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

### **Questions on notice and Hansard transcripts**

1.7 In accordance with standing order 26(9)(a), the committee set Friday, 24 May 2019 as the date for the return of written answers or additional information for the hearings held on 4 April, 8 April and 9 April 2019.

1.8 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 website. Links to the transcripts of these public hearings and to answers and additional information are available on the internet at: [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Senate\\_Estimates/ec](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_Estimates/ec).

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### ***Additional Estimates 2018–19 – timeliness of answers to questions on notice***

1.9 The committee's hearing for the Environment and Energy portfolio for Additional Estimates 2018–19 took place on 18 February 2019 and its hearing for the Communications and the Arts portfolio was held on 19 February 2019. The committee held a further hearing on 6 March 2019 in order to undertake its examination of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

1.10 The committee received answers to 276 of the 289 questions taken on notice for the Environment and Energy portfolio from the hearing held on 18 February 2019 by the due date of 29 March 2019. The Communications and the Arts portfolio provided answers to 55 of the 137 questions taken on notice from the hearings held on 19 February 2019 and 6 March 2019 by the due date of 29 March 2019.

### **Record of proceedings**

1.11 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 canvassed by the committee for each portfolio.

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

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

1.13 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.



# 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 Budget Estimates 2019–20. The discussion follows the outcome and agency structure.

### Environment and Energy portfolio

#### *Department of the Environment and Energy*

2.2 The committee commenced its examination of the Environment and Energy portfolio by asking general questions of the Department of the Environment and Energy. The committee discussed the recruitment process undertaken for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the appointment of Mr Joshua Thomas to the role on 18 March 2019 (pp. 5–6).

*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 from the department in relation to Program 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment; Program 1.2: Environmental Information and Research; Program 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and Environment; Program 1.5: Environmental Regulation; and Program 1.6: Management of Hazardous Wastes, Substances and Pollutants.

2.4 Matters discussed by the committee included:

- funding allocated under the National Landcare Program and Natural Heritage Trust (pp. 7–8);
- the department's structure and staffing levels (pp. 8–9);
- the rates of land clearing in Queensland (pp. 9–12);
- the Government's Communities Environment Program (pp.12–16);
- the establishment of the Harry Butler Environmental Education Centre at Murdoch University (pp. 17–19);
- funding for programs to control yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (pp. 22–23);
- the challenges faced by the Great Barrier Reef (pp. 23–26);
- the status of the approval for Adani's Carmichael Coal Mine (pp. 26–27);

- an update on the conservation status of the Australian sea lion (pp. 31–33);
- Freedom of Information requests in relation to the export of rare and endangered Australian birds between 2015 and 2018 (pp. 33–34);
- the impact of climate change on the World Heritage values of Shark Bay in Western Australia (pp. 35–36);
- an update on the Government's National Waste Policy action plan (p. 38); and
- the current conservation status of the Leadbeater's possum (pp. 39–41).

2.5 On 8 April 2019, the committee recalled officers from the department in relation to Outcome 1 and considered the following matters:

- the interaction of the department with the Office for Women (p. 46);
- the department's progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (pp. 46–47);
- the decision making framework for the Government's Communities Environment Program (pp. 47–52);
- consideration of the Adani mine groundwater dependent ecosystem and management plan (pp. 57–70, 74–76);
- feral animal control programs on Australian offshore islands (pp. 71–73);
- the protection of threatened species (pp. 84–86);
- the management of threats directed towards departmental compliance and regulatory staff (pp. 86–87); and
- the department's public advertising budget (pp. 88–89).

*Outcome 2: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, contribute to effective global action on climate change, and support technological innovation in clean and renewable energy, through developing and implementing a national response to climate change*

2.6 The committee called officers in relation to Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Program 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change; and Program 2.3: Renewable Energy Technology Development.

2.7 Matters canvassed by the committee included:

- the calculation of emissions reductions resulting from the Government's announced Climate Solutions Package (pp. 46–50);
- the Government's support for the Battery of the Nation project (p. 48);
- economic modelling of the projected cost of emission reduction targets (pp. 50–52);
- funding for the Climate Solutions Fund (pp. 57–59);
- criteria for use of the Emissions Reduction Fund (pp. 61–63);

- 
- modelling of climate change response plans (pp. 64–65); and
  - the methodologies used to set priorities for implementing the Carbon Farming Initiative (pp. 65–67).

2.8 On 8 April 2019, the committee recalled officers from Outcome 2 and discussed the following matters:

- the take-up of electric vehicles in Australia (pp. 89–93);
- Australia's emissions projections (pp. 93–95);
- the department's modelling of abatement measures (pp. 96–98);
- progress in developing a national strategy on electric vehicles (pp. 98–100);
- the status of the proposed solar thermal power plant for Port Augusta in South Australia (pp. 100–101); and
- landfill gas projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund (pp. 101–103).

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

2.9 The committee called, via video conference, officers from the department in relation to Program 3.1: Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence. Matters canvassed included:

- current funding levels for the Australian Antarctic Program (pp. 41–42);
- the inspection of international bases in the Australian Antarctic Territory (pp. 42–43);
- an update on the replacement Antarctic icebreaker vessel (pp. 43–44); and
- the proposed Million Year Ice Core project (pp. 44–45).

*Outcome 4: Support the reliable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets through improving Australia's energy efficiency, performance and productivity for the community*

2.10 Officers from the department were called in relation to Program: 4.1: Energy. Matters discussed by the committee included:

- the estimated impact of the Battery of the Nation project (pp. 70–73);
- the selection of short listed projects for the Underwriting New Generation Investment Program (pp. 73–74); and
- approval processes for the Adani's Carmichael Coal Mine (pp. 74–76).

2.11 Officers from Outcome 4 were recalled by the committee on 8 April 2019 and the following matters were canvassed:

- the Snowy 2.0 project and the proposal for a second Bass Strait electricity interconnector, Marinus Link (pp. 104–106 and 113);
- the release of the Interim Report on the Liquid Fuel Security Review and the establishment of an Australian strategic fuel reserve (pp. 107–112); and
- the criteria applied for projects under the Underwriting New Generation Investments program (p. 112).

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

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

- ARENA's studies of energy storage costs (pp. 76–77);
- producing renewable energy from the combustion of municipal solid waste (pp. 77–80);
- potential pumped-hydro projects in South Australia (pp. 81–82); and
- ARENA's investments in relation to electric vehicles (pp. 82–83).

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

2.13 The committee called officers from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and discussed the following matters:

- the proposed expansion of the BoM's weather radar and rainfall monitoring networks (pp. 5–8);
- the impact of proposed corporate changes on the provision of meteorological services (pp. 8–11);
- update on the BoM's upgrade of its information and communications technology systems (pp. 11–12);
- trends in the occurrence of drought and its significance for indications of climate change (pp. 13–15);
- support for inquiries into recent severe weather events (pp. 14–15); and
- an update on the use of the BoM's weather app (p. 16).

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

2.14 The committee called officers from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and discussed the following matters:

- the CEFC's mandate and priorities (pp. 26–27, 33–36);
- the prospects for renewable hydrogen as an energy source (pp. 27–28);

- 
- status of the proposed solar thermal power plant for Port Augusta in South Australia (pp. 28–29); and
  - the CEFC's involvement in financing of electric vehicles (pp. 29–35, 37–38).

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

2.15 The committee called officers from the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) and matters examined included:

- the CER's involvement in implementing the newly announced Climate Solutions Package and existing abatement measures (pp. 83–84);
- the introduction of new generation capacity under the Renewable Energy Target (pp. 85–87); and
- proposed spending on the Climate Solutions Fund (pp. 87–88).

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

2.16 The committee called officers from the Climate Change Authority (CCA). Matters discussed by the committee included the Government's announced Climate Solutions Package and the CCA's current activities (pp. 44–45).

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

2.17 The committee called the Director of National Parks, Dr James Findlay, and officers. The committee discussed marine protected area boundaries in the Bremer Marine Park (pp. 68–70) and funding for the Kakadu National Park and township of Jabiru (p. 70).

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

2.18 The committee called officers from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). On behalf of the committee, the Chair congratulated Mr Joshua Thomas on his appointment as the new CEO of GBRMPA. In his opening statement, Mr Thomas provided the committee with an assessment of the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the impact of recent weather events, commenting:

I'm pleased to report conditions for the 2018–19 summer on the Great Barrier Reef have not resulted in mass coral bleaching. While early autumn sea surface temperatures on most of the reef are still up to one degree Celsius above average, these conditions are unlikely to cause mass coral bleaching at this time of the year. While the reef has escaped a severe coral bleaching event this past summer, this was due to weather events cooling sea surface temperatures, most notably four different cyclones and the February monsoon event.<sup>4</sup>

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4 Mr Joshua Thomas, General Manager, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 April 2019, p. 88.

2.19 Other matters discussed by the committee included:

- the selection process for GBRMPA's new CEO (pp. 88–91);
- an update on the recovery of the Great Barrier Reef following the coral bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 (pp. 91–92 and 93);
- shark control measures inside the marine park (p. 92);
- Freedom of Information responses provided by GBRMPA (pp. 93–94); and
- GBRMPA's current funding and staffing levels (pp. 95–96).

### ***National Wind Farm Commissioner***

2.20 The chair welcomed Mr Andrew Dyer, National Wind Farm Commissioner. In his opening statement, Mr Dyer provided the committee with a summary of the complaints received by his office, stating:

The clear majority of complaints received are about proposed wind farms, with a decline in complaints being lodged about operating wind farms. As of 31 March 2019, the key complaint statistics since inception of the office are as follows: a total of 297 complaint matters have been received and 286 of these matters have been closed. Of the total complaints received, 65 were about operating wind farms, 199 matters related to proposed wind farms, 29 matters did not specify a wind farm and four matters have been received about proposed solar farms.<sup>5</sup>

2.21 Other matters discussed included changing community attitudes to wind farms and the nature of the complaints received (pp. 40–42), as well as ongoing studies into the relationship of wind farms and community health (pp. 42–43).

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

2.22 The chair welcomed Ms Kate Turner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Supervising Scientist Branch. Ms Turner provided the committee with an update on the roles and functions of the Office of the Supervising Scientist and regulatory activities concerning the rehabilitation of the Ranger uranium mine site (pp. 43–44).

### ***Snowy Hydro Limited***

2.23 The committee called Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) and discussed the progress of the Snowy 2.0 project (pp. 16–18), including the projected costs of the project and the future prospects of privatising Snowy Hydro (pp. 18–26).

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5 Mr Andrew Dyer, National Wind Farm Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 8 April 2019, p. 38.

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## Communications and the Arts portfolio

### *Department of Communications and the Arts*

2.24 The committee commenced its examination of the Communications and the Arts portfolio on 4 April 2019, by calling officers from the Department of Communications and the Arts. The following matters were discussed:

- the release of the Government's Australian and Children's Screen Content Review (pp. 100–101);
- the impact of the automatic repeal of legislative instruments on the regulation of online platforms (pp. 102–103);
- legislative and policy responses following the terrorist shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand (pp. 104–108);
- congestion affecting the fixed wireless network (pp. 109–112);
- the Government's new Regional Connectivity Program (pp. 113–115); and
- the \$30 million taxpayer grant to Fox Sports for coverage of women's and niche sports (pp. 117–118).

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

2.25 Officers from the department were called in relation to Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services. Matters canvassed included:

- the location of base stations under the Mobile Black Spot Program (pp. 5–10);
- new penalties for social media companies that broadcast violent content on their platforms (pp. 11–13);
- changes to the Government's refundable tax offsets for international film productions (p. 14);
- current status of the Government's partnership with Free TV Australia to provide Australian commercial content to Pacific broadcasters (pp. 15–16);
- the status of the second exposure draft of the Radiocommunications Bill 2017 (p. 18); and
- the department's support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (pp. 20–22).

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

2.26 The committee called officers in relation to Program 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development. The committee discussed the funding and implementation of initiatives including: Live Music Australia; Women in Music Mentor Program; and the Indigenous Community Music Program (pp. 69–71).

2.27 The committee also canvassed the following matters:

- funding and board appointments for portfolio arts agencies (pp. 71–75);
- content quotas for subscription-video-on-demand services (pp. 76–77); and
- purpose and value of art, in the context of government regulation (pp. 77–78).

### ***Australian Broadcasting Corporation***

2.28 The committee called officers from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Matters discussed included:

- the ABC's airing of content from broadcaster Al Jazeera (pp. 129–130);
- the freeze in ABC annual funding indexation from July 2019 (pp. 130–131);
- funding for the ABC's Enhanced Newsgathering initiative (p. 131); and
- consultation regarding the Government's Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Bill 2019 (pp. 132–133).

2.29 The ABC was also required to appear, via video conference, at the hearing on 9 April 2019 and the committee canvassed the following matters;

- the costs associated with the conduct of the efficiency, and competitive neutrality reviews (p. 80);
- the ABC's monitoring of its social media platforms in the wake of the Christchurch attack (pp. 82–83);
- purpose of the *National Transmission Network Sale Act 1998*, and proposed divestments or transfers of assets under this legislation (pp. 83–84); and
- the identification of instances of underpayment of casual employees over the past six years, and the servicing of such underpayments (pp. 84–85).

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

2.30 The committee called officers from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). In her opening statement, Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, updated the committee on the ACMA's investigation into whether content aired by Australian broadcasters of the Christchurch attack breached current rules. Ms O'Loughlin noted:

The investigation is well-progressed. We have a significant amount of footage to review and to consider against the current rules. We will work through the investigation as quickly as we can and consistent with our obligations to comply with procedural fairness requirements. We have not reached a view at this stage in regard to any noncompliance, and I will expect that it will be some weeks before our findings are concluded and are able to be made public.<sup>6</sup>

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6 Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Chair, Australian Communications and Media Authority, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 9 April 2019, p. 37.

2.31 The committee also discussed the following matters:

- the ACMA's guidance to government and industry following the Christchurch attack (pp. 38–39);
- operation of the Commonwealth classification scheme (pp. 39–40, 47–49);
- the scope of the ACMA's investigation into content aired by broadcasters of the Christchurch attack (pp. 40–41);
- the implementation of the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering in Australia (pp. 42–45); and
- the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund (pp. 46–47, 51–53).

### *Australian Postal Corporation*

2.32 The committee called officers from the Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post). The following matters were discussed:

- Australia Post's financial results for the first half of 2017–18 (pp. 119–120);
- the decline in revenue from decreasing letter volumes (pp. 120–121);
- the government appointments to the Australia Post board (pp. 122–123); and
- the issuing of commemorative stamps to mark the same-sex marriage postal survey (pp. 124–126).

### *NBN Co Limited*

2.33 The committee called officers from NBN Co Limited (NBN Co). In his opening statement, Mr Stephen Rue, Chief Executive Officer, noted that NBN Co was marking its 10th anniversary as a company and provided the committee with an update on the rollout, commenting:

In the coming weeks we are rapidly closing in on nine million premises ready to connect. Just last month, we passed a huge milestone, with five million active premises on the network. As is our usual practice, in early May we will publish on our website our quarterly operational and financial results. These will again show great progress during the quarter, in build, connections and revenue, and in line with corporate plan targets for 2019.<sup>7</sup>

2.34 The committee also canvassed the following matters:

- expenditure on promotional advertising and merchandise (pp. 24–25);
- decision making around NBN Co's continued use of the hybrid-fibre coaxial (HFC) network (pp. 25–28);
- current take-up rates for fibre-to-the-node (FTTN) and fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) (pp. 28–29);

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<sup>7</sup> Mr Stephen Rue, Chief Executive Officer, NBN Co Limited, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 9 April 2019, p. 23.

- an update on the number of congested cells on NBN Co's fixed wireless network (pp. 29–33); and
- the number of missed appointments by NBN Co technicians (pp. 33–35).

### ***Office of the eSafety Commissioner***

2.35 The committee called officers from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner (OeSC). The following matters were discussed:

- an update on the OeSC's key initiatives and programs (pp. 56–58);
- the use of e-safety resources in schools (pp. 58–59); and
- the OeSC input into the Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Bill 2019 (pp. 60–63).

### ***Screen Australia***

2.36 The committee called officers from Screen Australia. Matters discussed included the impact of funding reductions since 2013 (p. 78) and the funding for Indigenous projects and programs (p. 79).

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

2.37 The committee called officers from the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS). In his opening statement, Mr James Taylor, Managing Director, provided the committee with an update on the SBS's current programs and services.<sup>8</sup>

2.38 The following matters were also discussed:

- ratings data across SBS's platforms including both linear and digital services (pp. 63–64);
- the importance of Australian and children's content (p. 64);
- the moderation of hate speech on SBS's social media platforms (pp. 65–66);
- the SBS's funding levels, and advertising revenue (pp. 66–67); and
- appointments to the SBS Board (p. 68).

## **Senator Jonathon Duniam Chair**

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8 Mr James Taylor, Managing Director, Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 9 April 2019, p. 63.

# Appendix 1

## Tabled documents and additional information

### Tabled documents

*Thursday, 4 April 2019*

*Senator Janet Rice:*

- Article by Lisa Cox, "Environment groups accuse government of 'denying the facts' on land clearing", *The Guardian Australia*, dated 14 March 2019 and related tables.

*Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally:*

- Facebook posts from Mr Chris Crewther MP, Federal Member for Dunkley.
- Mr Chris Crewther MP, Federal Member for Dunkley, '\$150,000 Announced to Assist Local Environmental Groups in Dunkley', *Media Release*, 15 March 2019.

*Department of the Environment and Energy:*

- Letter to Ms Lisa Cox, *The Guardian Australia*, from Mr Paul Murphy, Assistant Secretary, Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy, dated 18 March 2019.

*Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally:*

- Extract from the website of the Hon Christian Porter MP, Federal Member for Pearce: expression of interest form for the Communities Environment Program.
- Mr Rowan Ramsey MP, Federal Member for Grey: expression of interest form for the Communities Environment Program.
- Facebook post from Ms Fiona Kotvojs, federal candidate for Eden-Monaro.
- The Hon Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack, 'Energy efficient grants available for Durack in Federal Government Climate Solutions Package', *Media Release*, 12 March 2019.

*Department of the Environment and Energy:*

- Director of National Parks, *Securing Tourism and Jobs in Kakadu funding*.

*Australian Postal Corporation:*

- Opening statement.

*Department of Communications and the Arts:*

- Table: Mobile Black Spot Program, Rounds 1, 2 and Priority Locations, Base stations not on air (as at 3 April 2019).

***Monday, 8 April 2019****Senator Jenny McAllister:*

- Article by Renee Viellaris, 'You'll Pay The Price', *Courier Mail*, dated 8 April 2019.
- Article by Josh Frydenberg, 'Stand by, Australia, for the electric car revolution', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, dated 12 January 2018.
- The Hon Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Energy, 'Electric vehicles get ultra-rapid charging network', *Media Release*, 22 October 2018.
- Article, 'Carmageddon Event a Major Success for MTA Queensland', *The National Collision Repairer*, dated 28 March 2019.
- Tweet from the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders.
- Article by George Monbiot, 'Top Gear's electric car shows pour petrol over the BBC's standards', *The Guardian*, dated 6 August 2011.

*Department of the Environment and Energy:*

- Status of plans required for Adani Projects, Table 1 - Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project (EPBC 2010/5736).

*Senator Anthony Chisholm:*

- Table 10: Summary of results of sensitivity studies.

***Tuesday, 9 April 2019****Department of Communications and the Arts:*

- Arts Portfolio Agencies, Australian Government Funding (as per the 2019–20 Portfolio Budget Statements).

*Senator Anthony Chisholm:*

- Article by Jennifer Duke and Fergus Hunter, "ABC and SBS to defend 'core' content", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, dated 6 March 2019.

**Additional information***Australian Renewable Energy Agency:*

- Letter from Mr Darren Miller, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, correcting evidence provided to the committee on 4 April 2019 (received 12 April 2019).

*Department of the Environment and Energy:*

- Letter from Ms Kristin Tilley, First Assistant Secretary, Climate Change Division and Ms Edwina Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Industrial and Air Quality Branch, correcting evidence provided to the committee on 4 April 2019, dated 26 April 2019 (received 29 April 2019).
- Letter from Ms Kate Turner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Supervising Scientist Branch, correcting evidence provided to the committee on 8 April 2019, dated 15 April 2019 (received 29 April 2019).
- Letter from Mr Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary, Environment Protection Group, correcting evidence provided to the committee on 4 April 2019, dated 7 May 2019 (received 9 May 2019).

*Australian Communications and Media Authority:*

- List of Innovative Grant Applications for the first round of the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund (received 30 April 2019).

*Australian Postal Corporation:*

- Letter from Ms Christine Holgate, Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Australia Post, clarifying evidence provided to the committee on 4 April 2019, dated 2 May 2019 (received 3 May 2019).