



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2024-25
Tuesday, 25 February 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.25pm.

The committee called the Communication and the Arts portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Program 5.1—Communications and media policy

- Content quotas for streaming services;
- Broadcasting Resilience Program;
- The recently announced Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation;
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites;
- Foreign interference in telecommunications;
- News Media Bargaining Code;
- Regional communications funding programs;
- Gambling advertising reform;
- Social media ban for children under 16 years of age;
- First Nations digital inclusion – Closing the Gap Target 17; and
- Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024.

Australian Communications and Media Authority

- Content expenditure by subscription video on demand (SVOD) providers;
- Investigation into the Kyle and Jackie O show;
- Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation;
- Revocation of registrations under the News Media Bargaining Code;
- Proposed new protections for telco consumers affected by domestic, family and sexual violence;
- Complaints regarding the shutdown of the 3G network;
- Engagement with the telcos before ACMA publishes press releases; and
- Negotiations with Optus on its fine for committing public safety breaches.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- ABC management relating to dismissals, hiring and extant staff matters;
- ABC's Australia Day coverage;
- ABC comparison with Netflix and the ABC response to inaccuracies, fact checking, and providing services;
- How the ABC manages and reports on the Gaza conflict;
- Concerns about bias in ABC reporting on events in the Middle East.

Office of the eSafety Commissioner

- Process for handling complaints to the Australian Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme;
- Consultation with Government since the implementation of the social media ban;
- Advice or briefings from the Minister to the eSafety Commissioner regarding developments in the United States related to tech companies;
- eSafety Commissioner Office correspondence with Telegram regarding infringement notice, and potential enforcement;
- Processes and results from identifying terrorist and extremist content;
- Reasons for the eSafety Commissioner to not publish a register of takedown incurring content;
- Invitation to the eSafety Commissioner to attend AI Conference;
- eSafety Commissioner position on the Administrative Review Tribunal hearing regarding the Baumgartner matter;
- Assurance trials and further methods to regulate pornography or gambling being accessible to children; and
- Change in the eSafety Commission over the 47th Parliament.

Australian Postal Corporation

- Northern Territory residential suburban areas being labelled as rural, resulting in higher freight and package rates;
- Auburn AusPost office closure and re-opening;
- Willowgrove post office closure and avenues for potential licensees to re-open it;
- Disruption of AusPost due to Queensland flooding;
- Bank@Post and banks which have entered contracts with AusPost for Bank@Post;
- Review of the cost of postage stamps;
- Trend of dog attacks against AusPost staff;
- Government modernisation reform implementation in AusPost; and
- Members of Parliament's historical attempts to change Chief Executive Officer decisions regarding post office closures.

NBN Co Limited

- Low earth orbit satellite services to low population density areas;
- Sovereign ownership of low Earth orbit satellites;
- Advertising undertaken by the NBN and related expenditure;
- NBN's relationship with Cricket Australia;
- Broadband access for small businesses in rural areas;
- Improvements to the speeds of Skymuster;
- Resilience of the NBN in the face of natural disasters; and
- Operating costs of the NBN.

Classification Board

- Classification of the book "Ostend" and concerns surrounding its classification.

Creative Australia

- Creative Australia's decision regarding the Venice Biennale
- Timeline of the CEO's knowledge of questions asked in the Senate and subsequent Board meeting
- Conversations between the Minister and CEO of Creative Australia

- Statements made by members of Music Australia within Creative Australia
- Historical funding cuts to Creative Australia
- How Creative Australia deals with conflicts of interest in evaluating the work of applicants.

The committee released Outcome 6 of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, and the National Gallery of Australia.

The committee will resume its examination of the 2024–25 Additional Estimates at 9.00am on Friday, 28 February 2025, for the Cross-Portfolio Murray Darling Basin Plan matters.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3526 or ec.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.