



## Communications Legislation Amendment (Online Content Services and Other Measures) Bill 2017

Public Hearing – 2 February 2018

Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

### Questions on Notice – Public Hearing on 2 February 2018

- The government announced its policy in this area in May 2017 but didn't introduce the bill until the last sitting week of parliament last year. How much time were you given to provide feedback on the draft bill?

**Senator URQUHART:** Thanks very much for your opening statement. The government announced its policy in this area in May 2017 but didn't introduce the bill until the last sitting week of parliament last year. How much time were you given to provide feedback on the draft bill?

**Ms O'Neil:** I would have to take that on notice. I can't recall precisely. We did receive some consultation on the draft, but, as to the exact time we had, I would have to take it on notice. I don't know off the top of my head.

- SBS received an exposure draft of the Bill on 10 October 2017, requesting feedback on 16 October. SBS provided feedback on 19 October.
  - DOCA provided a further draft of the Bill on 14 November 2017, requesting feedback by Friday 17 November 2017.
  - SBS provided feedback on this draft of the Bill on 17 November 2017.
- You said you had some consultation. When was that?

**Senator URQUHART:** You said you had some consultation. When was that?

**Ms O'Neil:** I think it would have been towards the end of last year—yes, the end of last year—but I would have to take that on notice too to be precise. I wouldn't want to mislead the committee by guessing.

Please see above.

- The committee has received a proposal that the definition of 'geographical link to Australia' should provide an express exception for services which are geoblocked to Australia. Do you have a view on that proposal?

**Senator URQUHART:** The committee has received a proposal that the definition of 'geographical link to Australia' should provide an express exception for services which are geoblocked to Australia. Do you have a view on that proposal?

**Ms O'Neil:** No. I have to admit I haven't considered that proposal, but we can do so on notice, if that's helpful.

While SBS recognizes the concerns raised by ASTRA, SBS is not directly impacted by this measure. SBS content and services are available to all users based in Australia.