The Senate

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Additional estimates 2003–04

March 2004

Membership of the Legislation Committee

Members

Senator Alan Eggleston, Chair (LP, WA)
Senator Sue Mackay, Deputy Chair (ALP, TAS)
Senator Andrew Bartlett (AD, QLD)
Senate Kate Lundy (ALP, ACT)
Senator Santo Santoro (LP, QLD)
Senator Tsebin Tchen (LP, VIC)

Substitute Members

Senator John Cherry (AD, QLD) to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Communications portfolio

Senator Brian Greig (AD, WA) to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Information Technology portfolio

Senator Aden Ridgeway (AD, NSW) to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Arts portfolio

Senator Gary Humphries, (LP, ACT) to replace Senator Santoro for the consideration of the 2003-2004 additional estimates hearing on 16 February 2004 from 6 pm

Participating Members

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (LP, TAS)
Senator the Hon Nick Bolkus (ALP, SA)
Senator the Hon Ron Boswell (NPA, QLD)
Senator Bob Brown (AG, TAS)
Senator George Campbell (ALP, NSW)
Senator Kim Carr (ALP, VIC)
Senator Grant Chapman (LP, SA)
Senator Stephen Conroy (ALP, VIC)
Senator the Hon Helen Coonan (LP, NSW)
Senator Christopher Evans (ALP, WA)
Senator the Hon John Faulkner (ALP, NSW)
Senator Alan Ferguson (LP, SA)
Senator Jeannie Ferris (LP, SA)
Senator Brian Harradine (Ind, TAS)
Senator Leonard Harris (PHON, QLD)
Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan (LP, NSW)
Senator Gary Humphries (LP, ACT)
Senator Susan Knowles (LP, WA)
Senator Meg Lees (Ind, SA)

Senator Ross Lightfoot (LP, WA)
Senator Jan McLucas (ALP, QLD)
Senator Julian McGauran (NPA, VIC)
Senator Brett Mason (LP, QLD)
Senator Claire Moore (ALP, QLD)
Senator Shayne Murphy (Ind, TAS)
Senator Kerry Nettle (AG, NSW)
Senator Kerry O'Brien (ALP, TAS)
Senator Robert Ray (ALP, VIC)
Senator John Watson (LP, TAS)
Senator Penny Wong (ALP, SA)

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Contents

Introduction

1.1   On 11 February 2004 the Senate referred the following documents to legislation committees for examination and report:

• Particulars of proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2004 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2003-2004]

• Particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2004 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2003-2004]

• Statement of savings expected in annual appropriations made by Act No. 55 of 2003 (*Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2003-2004)* and Act No. 56 of 2003 (*Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2003-2004)*;

• Final budget outcome 2002-03 (tabled 8 October 2003) and the Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2003.[1]

1.2   Legislation committees were required to report to the Senate on 24 March 2004.[2]

Hearings

1.3   The Committee conducted public hearings on the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio on 16 and 17 February 2004 and on the Environment and Heritage portfolio on 17 February 2004. The transcripts are available on the Internet at:

   http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/commttee/s-ecita.htm

1.4   Written responses and information provided to the Committee on notice arising from the hearings are compiled as volumes of Additional Information. These volumes are tabled in the Senate and the responses are posted on the Committee's web page at:

   http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/quest_answers/index.htm

Questions on notice – date for response

1.5   In accordance with Standing Order 26(9)(a), the Committee agreed that the date for the submission of written answers or additional information in response to questions placed on notice at the hearings be Friday, 2 April 2004.

1.6   The Committee again expresses its expectation that responses to questions on notice should be provided to it by the due date.

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1   *Journals of the Senate*, No. 126, 11 February 2004, p. 2999.

2   *Journals of the Senate*, No. 123, 3 December 2003, p. 2840.

Portfolio specific issues

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio

1.7 On the first day of its examination of the 2003-2004 Additional Estimates, the Committee examined the broadcasting, telecommunications and information technology areas of the portfolio.

1.8 The Committee welcomed Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport, representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Hon Darryl Williams MP.

1.9 During its examination, the Committee raised a range of issues which are noted below. The page references beside each issue refer to the proof transcript for Monday, 16 February 2004.

Outcome 3—Development of services and provisions of a regulatory environment which encourages an efficient and effective communications sector for the benefit of all Australians

Broadcasting issues

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- details of overseas travel of all Board members (p.6)

- journalists accompanying the Leader of the Opposition on east coast travel (p.7)

- role of Mr Richard Ackland as presenter of the morning show on Radio National (pp.8-9)

- review of the new complaints system (p.9)

- provision of guidelines and a style guide to ABC journalists (pp.10-11)

- review of the Hutton inquiry and its relevance to ABC processes and procedures (p.11)

- cost to the ABC of answering questions on notice (pp.13-14)

- cost of ABC journalists accompanying the Prime Minister on Western Australian trip (p.14)

- funding for the National Interest Initiative (pp.16-16)

- details of overseas travel of ABC staff (pp.16-28)

- introduction of a national sports bulletin (pp.29-37)

- reorganisation of the arts and entertainment division (pp.38-40)

- content and costs of the new television program *Mondo Thingo* (pp.43-44)

- use of resources in the various capital cities for ABC productions (pp.45-46)

- analysis by the ABC of proposals contained in the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement, particularly any impact on current programming, or any other aspect which may affect the ABC's operations (p.48)

Special Broadcasting Service

- input by community groups to programming (p.51)

- SBS reaction to matters raised by the Australia-Israel and Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) (p.51)

- SBS reaction to comments from Mr Ali Kazak, the Head of the General Palestinian Delegation to Australia, concerning news coverage of events in Israel and the Palestinian territory (p.52)

- concerns raised by the Vietnamese community on SBS programming (p.53)

- levels of non-English programming on SBS (p.55)

- proposed SBS program *Desperately Seeking Sheila* (pp.56-57)

- staffing statistics (p.58)

- reorganisation of office space (pp.59-60)

- impact of the proposed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on the SBS (pp.61-62)

Australian Broadcasting Authority

- review of ABC compliance with the ABC code in relation to its news reporting of the so-called Jenin massacre (p.62)

- ABC complaint process and the role of the ABA (pp.62-63)

- ABA investigation of complaint from Senator Alston regarding ABC coverage of the war in Iraq (pp.63-68)

- procedures for dealing with conflict of interest questions (pp.68-71)

DCITA Output 3.2–Policy advice and program management which promote accessible high quality broadcasting services

- outcomes of the Australia-USA Free Trade Agreement for local content regulation for the commercial broadcasting sector (pp.73-79)

- access to SBS television (p.80)

- Television Black Spots Program and the Television Black Spot–Alternative Technical Solutions Program (pp.80-82)

- radio black spots funding program (pp.82-84)

- maintenance of community broadcasting funding (p.84)

- funding for transition to digital broadcasting (pp.84-85)

- introduction of digital radio in Australia (pp.85-86)

- commitments to the Indigenous broadcasting sector (pp.87-88)

Telecommunications issues

Telstra

- closure of call centres (pp.88-92)

- full-time staff numbers (pp.92-93)

- domestic capital expenditure (p.93)

- ADSL connections in Tasmania (pp.94-95

- GSM and CDMA mobile coverage in Tasmania (pp.95-96)

- outsourcing of IT services (pp.96-103)

- replacement of older pair gains systems (pp.103-105)

- access to broadband services (pp.106-108)

- increased fault levels (pp.110-114)

- services provided to low-income earners (pp.115-117)

Australia Post

- costs to Australia Post of managerial fraud in Victoria (pp.117-119)

- proposed shift rearrangement at the Ardeer parcel facility (pp.119-120)

- proposed franchising program (pp.120-122)

DCITA Output 3.1–Policy advice and program management which encourages competitively priced and reasonably accessible telecommunications and postal services

- possible impact of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on the ownership and regulation of Telstra (p.122)

- impact of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on the ownership and regulation of Australia Post (pp.122-123)

- evaluation of the Networking the Nation grants (pp.123-127)

- guidelines for applicants to the HiBIS program (p.127)

- guidelines for the CCIF program and their interaction with HiBIS (p.128)

- access to HiBIS funding by Telstra (p.129)

Copyright issues

DCITA Output 3.4–Policy and program management of copyright issues that encourage the production of content and promote reasonable access to research and cultural materials

- what elements of the proposed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement will require legislative change for Australia to comply (pp.130-131)

- impact of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on Australia's copyright regime (pp.131-132)

Information and Communications Technology issues

DCITA Output 3.3–Policy advice and program management that assist the development of the Information and Communications Technology Industry

- administration of the Intelligent Island program (pp.132-133)

- Tasmanian centre of excellence (p.133)

- IT outsourcing and industry development (pp.135-137)

- possible impact of the proposed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on existing industry development commitments (pp.137-140)

- future of the BITS incubator program (p.141)

National Office for the Information Economy

- role in the National Broadband Strategy (pp.142-143)

- role with respect to e-security measures in Australia (p.143)

1.10 On the second day of hearings, the Committee continued its examination of the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio, calling first the

sports sector and then the arts sector. It again welcomed Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport.

1.11 The page references beside each issue refer to the transcript for Tuesday, 17 February 2004.

Sport issues

Outcome 2–Development of a stronger and internationally competitive Australian sports sector and greater encouragement in sport by all Australians

Australian Sports Commission and the **Australian Sports Drug Agency**

DCITA Output 2.1–Policy advice, program management and agency support in relation to sports, anti-doping and industry development measures which support the Australian sports sector

- introduction of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) anti-doping code and acceptance by sporting bodies (pp.4-6)

- testing for recreational drugs (pp.6-7)

- acceptance of the WADA code prior to the Athens Olympic Games (pp.8-9)

- progress of the latest round of the national sporting organisations antidoping assessment process (pp.9-10)

- AIS role in EPO and genetic research (pp.10-18)

- Targeted Sports Participation Growth Program (pp.18-24)

- AIS redevelopment and upgrade (pp.26-27)

- procedures for the testing of Australian athletes competing at the Athens Olympic Games (p.27))

- sanctions imposed for failure to comply and for positive drugs tests (pp.27-28)

Cultural issues

Outcome 1–Development of a rich and stimulating cultural sector for all Australians

DCITA Output 1.1–Policy advice, program management and agency support which promotes access to and excellence in Australia's cultural activities and preservation and development of our cultural collections

- publication of the review of cultural agencies (pp.28-29)

- decrease in staffing levels for Outcome 1 resulting from the removal of ScreenSound and Questacon from the Department.(p.29)

Australia Council

- impact of the proposed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on the cultural sector (pp.30-31)

- funding for the Books Alive Program (pp.32-34)

- Council report *Don't give up your day job* and possible strategies to support artists (p.34)

- funding for the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie (pp.34-36)

Australian Film Commission

- impact of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement on film and television services (pp.36-37)

- integration of ScreenSound and the Australian Film Commission (pp.37-40)

- value of the ScreenSound audiovisual collection (p.41)

- report on the AFC corporate services review (pp.41-42)

National Gallery of Australia

- details about Council members (p.43)

- trend in visitor numbers to the Gallery (p.43)

- update on the proposed building works at the Gallery (p.44)

1.12 Due to time constraints, the National Library of Australia and the National Museum of Australia were not called before the Committee. However, it was foreshadowed that questions would be put on notice for both organisations.

Environment and Heritage portfolio

1.13 At the conclusion of the examination of the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio, officers from the Environment and Heritage portfolio were called.

1.14 The Committee welcomed Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr David Kemp MP.

Outcome 1—The environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national environmental significance, is protected and conserved

Bureau of Meteorology

- staffing at the Launceston Meteorological Office (pp.47-53, 55)

- purpose and costs of the relocation of the Melbourne head office (pp.53-54)

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

- visitation numbers to the Reef HQ (pp.56-57)

- reports commissioned during the Representative Areas Program process (pp.58-60)

- updated information on the application for the pontoon extension off Cairns (pp.61-62)

Australian Greenhouse Office

- expenditure for all current program areas (pp.63-65)

- funding for the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (p.66)

- levels of abatement from the greenhouse gas abatement program (GGAP) projects (pp.66-67)

- underspend in the GGAP (pp.68-69)

- AGO funding for the Queensland land clearing agreement (pp.69-72)

- funding to geosequestration research and development projects (pp.78-79)

- greenhouse gas emission figures (pp.80-83)

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Parks Australia Division

- identification process of marine parks (pp.84-89)

Approvals and Wildlife Division

- the Department's involvement in any reassessment of the EIS relating to three sites in South Australia (pp.91-93)

Heritage Division

- proposed sale of crown land on Norfolk Island (pp.93-97)

Land, Water and Coasts Division

- the department's representation on the Australian Introduced Marine Pests Advisory Council and the National Introduced Marine Pests Coordination Group (pp.97-99)

- pollutant load targets (pp.99-106)

National Resource Management Programmes Division

- expenditure information for natural resource management regions under the National Action Plan (NAP) and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) (pp.106-107)

- extension of the NHT for direct measures to improve water quality (pp.110-118)

Policy Coordination and Environment Protection Division

- revised eligibility criteria for grants to voluntary environment and heritage organisations (pp.118-121)

Acknowledgements

The Committee thanks the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, who also represented the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; and the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, along with officers from both portfolio departments and agencies, for their assistance during this additional estimates process.

Senator Alan Eggleston
Chairman

Appendix 1

Additional Estimates 2003-2004

Public Hearings: **Additional Estimates for 2003-04**

Monday, 16 and Tuesday, 17 February 2004

Committee Room 2S3
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

To be televised on Channel 11 and broadcast on Radio 91.1
http:--webcast.aph.gov.au

AGENDA

MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2004

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Outcome 3–Development of services and provisions of a regulatory environment which encourages an efficient and effective communications sector for the benefit of all Australians

9.00am   **Australian Broadcasting Corporation**
Special Broadcasting Service
Australian Broadcasting Authority
DCITA Output 3.2   Policy advice and program management which promote accessible high quality broadcasting services

Telstra
Australia Post
DCITA Output 3.1   Policy advice and program management which encourages competitively priced and reasonably accessible telecommunications and postal services

7.00pm   **DCITA Output 3.4** Policy and program management of copyright issues that encourage the production of content and promote reasonable access to research and cultural materials

DCITA Output 3.3 Policy advice and program management that assist the development of the Information and Communications Technology Industry
DCITA Corporate Services
National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE)

11.00pm   **Adjournment**

TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2004

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Outcome 2–Development of a stronger and internationally competitive Australian sports sector and greater encouragement of greater participation in sport by all Australians

9.00am **Australian Sports Commission**
Australian Sports Drug Agency
DCITA Output 2.1 Policy advice, program management and agency support in relation to sports, anti-doping and industry development measures which support the Australian sports sector

Outcome 1–Development of a rich and stimulating cultural sector for all Australians
Australia Council
Australian Film Commission-ScreenSound
National Gallery of Australia
National Library of Australia
National Museum of Australia
DCITA Output 1.1 Policy advice, program management and agency support which promotes access to and excellence in Australia's cultural activities and preservation and development of our cultural collections

DCITA Output 1.2 Preservation of and access to Old Parliament House and the National Portrait Gallery and their respective collections

Environment and Heritage Portfolio
2.00pm **Department of the Environment and Heritage**
Outcome 1–The environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national environmental significance, is protected and conserved

Bureau of Meteorology
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Australian Greenhouse Office
Parks Australia Division
Department of the Environment and Heritage
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Corporate Strategies Division
Heritage Division (Australian Heritage Commission)
Land, Water and Coasts Division
Natural Resource Management Programmes Division
Policy Coordination and Environment Protection Division

BREAKS	Lunch	1.00pm	2.00pm
	Dinner	6.00pm	7.00pm