The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

THE SENATE

Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Convergence Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013

(Amendment to be moved by Senator Xenophon in committee of the whole)

(1) Schedule 1, page 19 (after line 5), at the end of the Schedule, add:

Part 3—Further amendments

50 Review of section 43A of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992

(1) The Minister must, within 3 months of the date that this Act receives the Royal Assent, direct the Chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority to undertake a review of section 43A of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992.

(2) In undertaking the review of section 43A of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992, the Chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority must consider:

(a) the operation and effectiveness of section 43A; and
(b) the importance of broadcasting material of local significance to people in distinct regional areas of Australia; and
(c) whether people living in distinct regional areas of Australia have adequate access to material of local significance; and
(d) whether recent changes to the broadcasting of material of local significance in distinct regional areas of Australia has had a negative impact for people living in regional areas; and
(e) how access to material of local significance can be maintained and enhanced for people living in distinct regional areas of Australia;
(f) whether the definition of regional aggregated commercial television broadcasting licence in subsection 43A(2) is adequate to cover all Australians living in distinct regional areas of Australia.

(3) The Chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority must complete the review referred to in subitem (1) within 6 months of the date that the Minister requests the review to be undertaken.

(4) Within 15 days of the date that the Chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority provides the review to the Minister, the Minister must do the following:
(a) make the review publicly available; and
(b) lay the review before each House of the Parliament.

(5) For the purpose of this item, *regional areas* means:

(a) each of the licence areas referred to in subsection 43A(2) of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*; and
(b) South Australia; and
(c) the Northern Territory; and
(d) Western Australia; and
(e) all other regional areas of Australia.

[material of local significance]