Date Introduced: 11 April 1978
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. A.A. Staley, Minister for Post and Telecommunications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Broadcasting and Television Amendment Act 1977.

Background

Following the Green inquiry into the Australian broadcasting system the Broadcasting and Television Act 1942 was amended by the Broadcasting and Television Amendment Acts 1976 and 1977.

In accordance with the Green Report recommendations section 87(2) inserted by the 1977 Act, provides that a licence granted by way of renewal continues in force for 3 years or such lesser period (being not less than 12 months) as is specified in the licence, but the Tribunal shall not specify a period of less than 3 years unless it is satisfied that the circumstances justify its so doing.

In the transitional provisions section 33(11) of the 1977 Act provides only that a licence renewed under s.33 continues in force for such period (not exceeding one year) as is specified in the licence.

Provisions

This Bill will amend s.33(11) of the 1977 Act to give the Tribunal the choice of renewing broadcasting and television licences in the transitional period for three years or such lesser period (not less than 12 months), where there has been a public inquiry into the renewal. In any other case a licence renewed under this section continues in force for such a period (not exceeding one year) as is specified in the licence.

The Second Reading Speech indicates that this is to give the Tribunal flexibility in renewing licences in the administrative change-over period.

New s.33(12) of the 1977 Act will provide under the trans-
ditional provisions for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to review decisions of Australian Broadcasting Tribunal regarding renewal or refusal of renewal of broadcasting and television licences. This avenue of appeal already exists under the 1942 Act.

27 April 1978

Education and Welfare Group

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