



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

**BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT
(MEDIA OWNERSHIP) BILL 2002**

In Committee

SPEECH

Thursday, 26 June 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 26 June 2003
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Questioner
Speaker Cherry, Sen John

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator CHERRY (Queensland) (12.18 pm)—I move the amendment as amended:

(R3) Schedule 2, item 4, page 14 (after line 6), at the end of subsection 61F(2), add:

; and (d) the entities, or parts of the entities, that run those media operations, where those media operations involve a television station and one or more daily newspapers in the same market, have established an editorial board for the news and current affairs operation of the television station which will:

(i) have complete editorial control over the news and current affairs output of the television station, subject only to a right of veto by the entity over any story which is likely to expose the entity to a successful legal action for damages; and

(ii) consist of three members, one appointed by the entity, one elected by the staff of the news and current affairs operation, and an independent chair appointed by agreement between the entity and the Authority; and

(iii) have the power to ratify the appointment or dismissal of the news editor, who in turn shall have the power to ratify the appointment or dismissal of all staff of the news and current affairs operation within the budget set by the entity; and

(iv) abide by any commercial objectives set by the entity and approved by the Authority consistent with the objectives of this Act and this section.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN—The question is that the amended amendment moved by Senator Cherry be agreed to.

Question agreed to.