



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) (12.19 pm)—I do not propose to speak on schedule 2 for very long at all, because we really do this at the third reading. This was an amendment to signal that the Democrats do oppose the cross-media rules as they currently stand. I want to place on the record that, whilst there have been some very good amendments made during the passage of this bill, particularly the one we have just agreed to from Senator Harradine—

Senator Lees—It is very different.

Senator CHERRY—It is a very different bill, and it shows what a very worthy place this chamber is—'magical', as my leader said earlier in this debate. I do not think that we have quite gotten to the point where the cross-media rules, even in this amended bill, adequately protect diversity of viewpoints. We should strike them out of the bill and the bill should proceed in a very different form. I will not speak for long, as I will save my comments for the third reading debate, but I formally oppose schedule 2 in the following terms:

(5) Schedule 2, page 5 (line 2) to page 38 (line 27), **to be opposed**.