



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

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

Third Reading

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
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Responder
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Senator CHERRY (Queensland) (12.23 pm)—I wish to note for the record that the Democrats will not be supporting the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002 on the third reading. We do this because we do think the bill, at this point, has sufficient safeguards in it to protect the diversity of viewpoints and we do it because we do not think the bill has sufficient safeguards to ensure the Australian control of major media outlets. I am very disappointed that this bill actually deletes that as an objective of the Broadcasting Services Act. We do not support this bill because it does not include a request to the government to push out the funding for the ABC. We do not support this bill because it does not ensure that we have adequate diversity, particularly in regional markets. I note that Senator Harradine's amendment applies to metropolitan markets but not to regional markets. I gave the chamber yesterday a great, long list of the markets where there will be significant further concentration of ownership as a result of this bill as it stands amended. From those points of view, this bill does not deserve the support of the Senate and the Democrats will be voting against it on the third reading.