



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

BILLS

Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2014) Bill 2014

In Committee

SPEECH

Monday, 22 September 2014

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Monday, 22 September 2014
Page 6629
Questioner
Speaker Abetz, Sen Eric

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator ABETZ (Tasmania—Leader of the Government in the Senate, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Minister for Employment) (13:57): I have since been given a checklist showing that the term to which Senator Xenophon referred, 'desirable to do so', in fact appears in 20 pieces of federal legislation. It has been relatively commonly used, it would appear, for over two decades now. Does this provide a wide discretion to the officials? Yes it does. We accept that. We believe that, in all the circumstances, it is appropriate. But, of course, as with all government departments and agencies, it is expected that ACMA will inform the public and the broadcasting industry about its general approach to investigating complaints in its discretion, and that will be made known publicly.