

1990-91

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BROADCASTING AMENDMENT BILL 1991

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

The proposed amendments of the Broadcasting Amendment Bill 1991 will ensure that there is no scope for misinterpretation of the current Bill.

Amendments 1 and 2 will clarify the obligation to give prior notice of an acquisition of a prescribed interest as arising when the person is aware, or has reason to believe, that the acquisition, together with any other interests held by the person or interests known by the person to be held by an associate of the person, will exceed the prescribed interest levels of the Principal Act. Amendment 1 applies to interests in commercial radio and Amendment 2 to interests in commercial television.

Amendment 3 will remove a provision because the present subsection 92JB(4) of the Principal Act and the remaining provisions of the Bill will require persons with newspaper interest acquiring more than 5% interests in television to notify the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. The provision is therefore unnecessary and could cause confusion.

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Transport and Communications, the Hon Kim C. Beazley MP)

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