

1983

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT

(ELECTION BLACKOUT) BILL 1983

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the Minister for Communications, the
Honourable Michael Duffy, MP)

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT

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OUTLINE

The Bill is intended to:

- . amend the Broadcasting and Television Act 1942 to remove the election blackout provisions relating to election matter, including political news and current affairs reporting, but retains the blackout for paid election advertising; and
- . reduce the administrative burden on the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal which under the present Act is required to notify all broadcasters which are to be exempted from applying the blackout at a particular by-election or state election.

The Bill makes changes to section 116 of the Broadcasting and Television Act 1942.

NOTES ON THE CLAUSES OF THE BILL

Clause 1 provides for a short title for the Bill and provides that the Broadcasting and Television Act 1942 is to be referred to in the Bill as the Principal Act.

Clause 2 provides that the Bill shall come into operation on the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

Clause 3 provides for the election blackout to apply only to election advertisements, requires the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, if a ban is to apply, to give fourteen days notice to licensees of the ban and requires a licensee to comply with such a notice. The clause also provides definitions of the following words and terms in the Bill:

- election
- election advertisement
- election matter
- election period
- licensee
- relevant period

