

1980-81

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL 1981

TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL 1981

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the authority of the Minister
for Communications, the Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P.)

1. Commercial radio and television station licence holders pay annual licence fees as required under the Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1964 and the Television Stations Licence Fees Act 1964. The Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill 1981 and the Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill 1981 seek to amend the provisions of these Acts by:

- . raising the fee on initial grant of a licence to \$500 from \$200;
- . removing the \$200 lump sum component of the annual fee; and
- . changing the schedule used in calculating the sliding component of the annual fee.

2. Under the new schedule, a licensee's annual fee will be calculated as a percentage rate of the gross earnings of the station to which the licence relates. The scale of rates is progressive, that is to say, every increase in a station's gross earnings renders its licensee liable to pay a higher percentage in licence fees. However, with the removal of the lump sum component of the fee, and the restructuring of the scale, licensees with low gross earnings will pay less than under the existing schedule.

3. All stations earning less than about \$2½ million in 1980/81 (i.e. about 120 radio and 20 TV stations) will benefit. Only some 30 television and 10 radio station licensees will be liable to pay a higher fee than under the present arrangement.
4. The new scales come into effect on 1 September 1981.