

SUBMISSION No 5  
Received 20/3/8



Mr Simon Finn MP  
Chair  
Broadcast of Parliament Select Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Finn

### **Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings**

Thank you for your letter of 29 February, 2008 requesting information about the regimes and systems for the broadcast of Parliament in Australian parliamentary jurisdictions.

The ACT Legislative Assembly does not provide video to the local media for broadcast or television. The system used by our Assembly is that the relevant TV operators seek permission on a case-by-case basis from the Speaker to film proceedings and TV cameramen and women are allowed access to the Chamber floor for this purpose.

The ACT Legislative Assembly provides a live video broadcast of its proceedings within the Assembly building for Assembly members and staff. It also uses webstreaming technology to broadcast proceedings over the Internet for access by government agencies and the general public.

The Assembly Chamber is equipped with six cameras which are operated by the Assembly's technical officer. He is also responsible for the audio recording.

Broadcasting of Legislative Assembly proceedings is covered by the Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001. Pursuant to section 5 (2) of that Act the Assembly has agreed to guidelines for the broadcasting of Assembly and committee proceedings and I have attached a copy for your information (Attachment A).

Broadly, the guidelines require that persons or organisations intending to record and broadcast proceedings in the chamber must obtain the approval of the Speaker; persons or organisations intending to record and broadcast committee proceedings may do so if no member or witness objects; and, in both cases, certain conditions must be observed.

There is no restriction on the portion of proceedings of the House that are permitted to be filmed by local television media, although there are conditions on how that footage may be used.. Requests from local media often relate to question time and debates of particular interest, and are received in most sitting weeks.

We can supply you with a recording of our live broadcast within the Assembly of Question Time. We will arrange to do this in the next sitting week, commencing on 1 April 2008.

We do not keep copies of any footage of proceedings taken by the media but the local ABC outlet has provided us with a copy of their footage of the Assembly's morning session on 6 March 2008. The DVD is enclosed.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact the Manager, Hansard and Communications, Val Barrett on 02 62050126. I wish your committee well in its inquiry

Yours sincerely

  
Tom Duncan  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
17 March 2008

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## **Guidelines for Broadcasting the Public Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees**

The broadcasting of proceedings is only permitted subject to the conditions outlined below. Permission to broadcast proceedings shall be on the basis of an undertaking to observe these conditions: (*See also Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001*).

- (A) Pursuant to section 5 (2) of the *Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001*, the Legislative Assembly agrees to the following guidelines for the broadcasting of Assembly and committee proceedings:

### **Guidelines for Broadcasting the Public Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees**

These guidelines apply to the broadcasting of Legislative Assembly and committee proceedings to the public by radio, television, landline, the internet or any other electronic means.

The broadcasting of proceedings is only permitted subject to the conditions outlined below. Permission to broadcast proceedings shall be on the basis of an undertaking to observe these conditions: (*See also Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001*)

- (1) Persons or organisations intending to record for broadcast proceedings in the Legislative Assembly chamber must seek the approval of the Speaker in writing giving reasonable notice.
- (2) Persons or organisations intending to record for broadcast committee proceedings will be able to do so, unless a member of the committee or a witness objects.
- (3) A witness at a public hearing of a committee shall be advised in advance of appearing that the proceedings may be recorded for broadcast. A witness shall be given reasonable opportunity to object and to state the ground of the objection.
- (4) A person who has been granted access to record for broadcast the proceedings shall observe the following conditions:
  - (a) as a general principle, cameras should focus on the Member or witness with the call;
  - (b) reaction shots of a Member are only permitted:
    - (i) if the Member is referred to in debate;
    - (ii) if the Member has sought information which is being

supplied by a Member having the call;

- (c) coverage of the Galleries is not permitted;
  - (d) recording of protests or demonstrations is not permitted;
  - (e) panning along the Benches is not permitted;
  - (f) close-up shots of Members' or witnesses' papers are not permitted;
  - (g) camera positioning is not to interfere with the proceedings of the Assembly; or of the conduct of a public hearing of a committee of the Legislative Assembly;
  - (h) the use of flash, other sources of additional light and motor driven cameras is not permitted;
  - (i) any instruction from the Speaker/Presiding Member or their delegate is to be observed;
- (5) Recording of public proceedings should be a fair and accurate record of events and must not be used for:
- (a) the purpose of satire or ridicule;
  - (b) advertising for or by political parties or electioneering; or
  - (c) commercial advertising or sponsorship;
- (6) A witness at a public hearing of a committee shall be advised in advance of appearing that the proceedings may be recorded and broadcast. A witness shall be given reasonable opportunity to object to the recording and/or broadcast of their evidence and state the ground of the objection;
- (7) Persons/organisations wishing to broadcast or record for broadcast the public proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees must complete the relevant form;
- (8) Persons/organisations intending to record visual images in the Chamber and/or Committee Rooms must seek the approval of the Speaker (in the case of the Assembly) or the Committee Chair (in the case of a Committee) in writing giving reasonable notice; and
- (B) That, pursuant to Section 6 of the *Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001*, the Legislative Assembly:
- (1) delegates to the Speaker the power to withdraw the right of a person to broadcast, or record for broadcast, public proceedings of the Legislative Assembly; and
  - (2) delegate to each committee formed by resolution or standing order of the Assembly the power to withdraw the right of a person to broadcast, or record for broadcast, public proceedings of that committee;
- (C) That the Clerk is authorised to approve the transmission of public proceedings of the Assembly or a committee via landlines to public service agencies, subject to the agency agreeing to the following

conditions:

- the recording and transmission facilities of the Legislative Assembly;
- (3) pay the costs and expenses of maintaining the access equipment;
- (4) pay the costs and expenses of the Legislative Assembly secretariat in giving access to the proceedings by the access equipment;
- (5) no broadcast of proceedings may be made for;
  - (i) the purpose of satire or ridicule;
  - (ii) advertising for or by political parties or electioneering; nor
  - (iii) commercial advertising or sponsorship;
- (6) The relevant agency seek the approval of the Clerk to gain access to the recording and transmission facilities, stating the number of employees that require access to the broadcast.

*Resolution agreed by the Assembly 7 March 2002 (amended 17 March and 23 June 2005)*