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MS24-001092



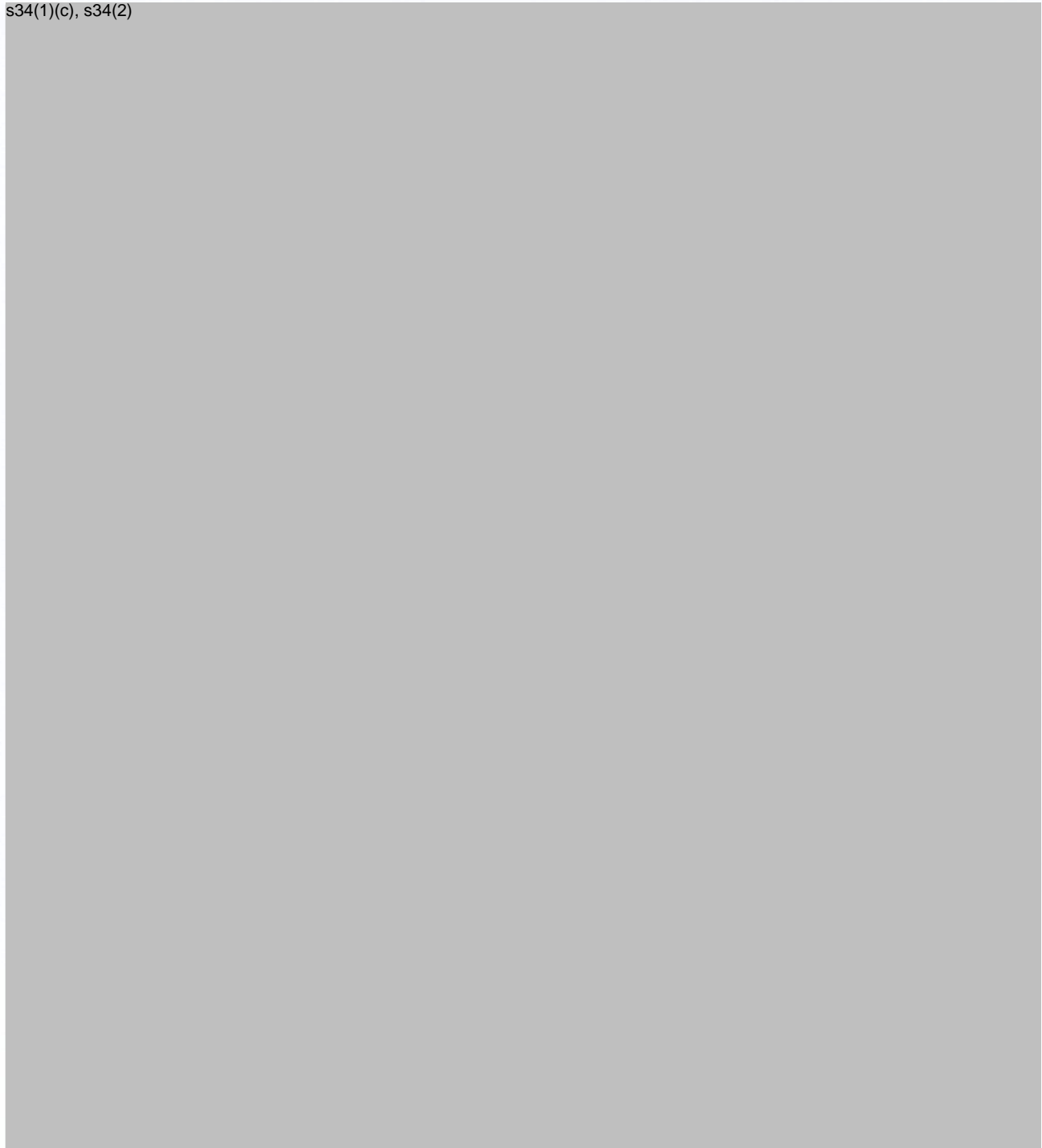
**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**To: The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications (for decision)**

**Subject: SBS Relocation Feasibility Study – SBS response to Initial Feasibility Assessment Report and proposed next steps**

s34(1)(c), s34(2)



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s34(1)(c), s34(2), s47D, s47E(d)



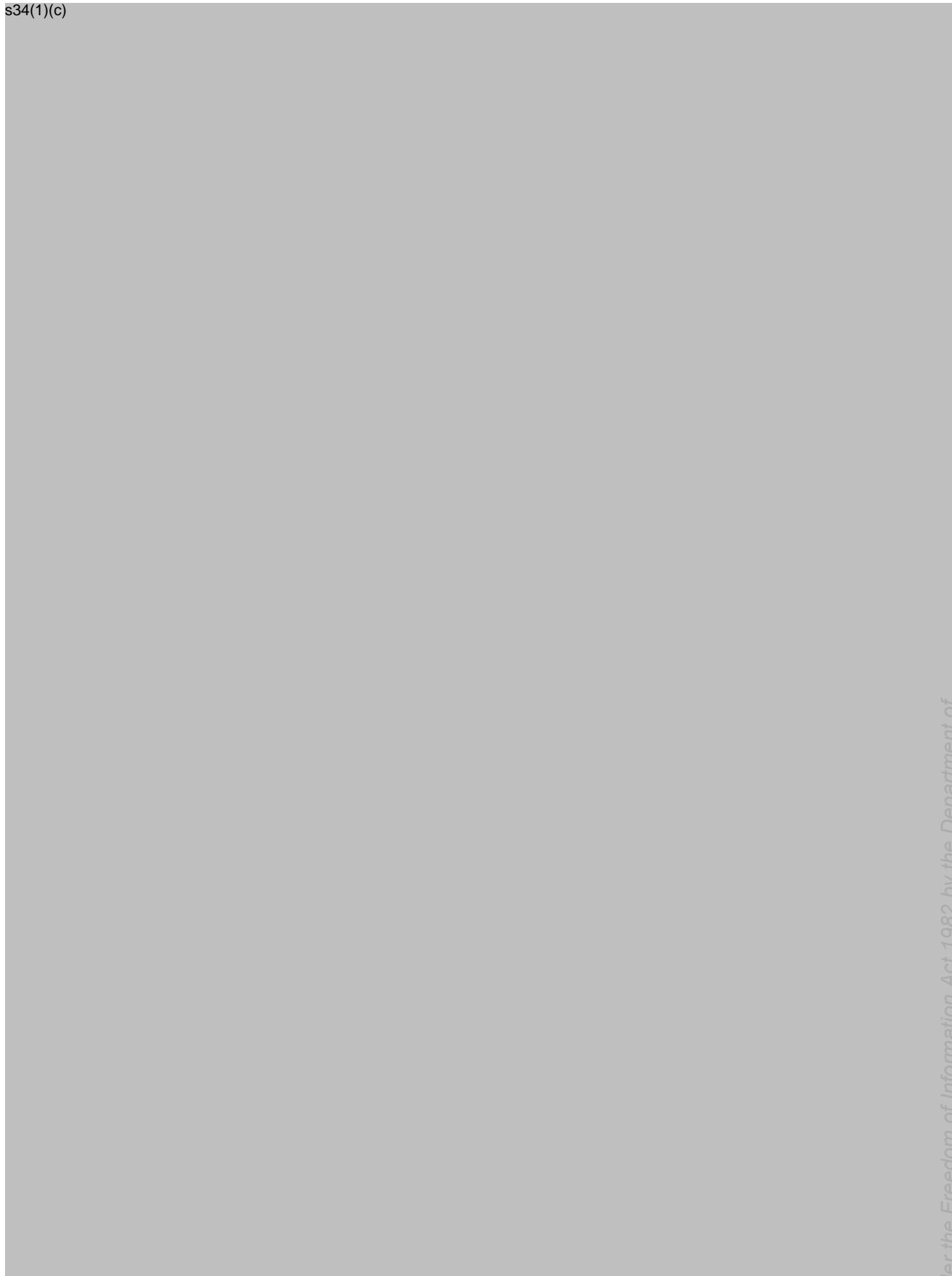
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s34(1)(c)



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**Attachments:**

**Attachment A:** s47(1)(b), s47C, s47D

**Attachment B:** Response letter to SBS Chair

**Attachments C to G:** Letters to Steering Committee Chair and members

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**MS24-001092**

Cleared By: Margaret Lopez  
Position: Assistant Secretary  
Division: Online Safety, Media and Platforms  
Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)  
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)  
Cleared Date: 7 August 2024

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)  
Section: Strategic Projects, Media Industry  
and Sustainability Branch  
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**Instructions for MPS:** Nil

**Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned:** No

**Responsible Adviser:** s22(1)(a)(ii)

**PDMS Distribution List:** Shervin Rafizadeh, Jim Betts, James Chisholm, Bridget Gannon, Margaret Lopez,  
s22(1)(a)(ii), s22(1)(a)(ii), s22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Additional Information**

The two stage capital works approval process provides Government approval of funding and the Public Works Committee approval process provides public scrutiny of proposed public works.

*Two Stage Capital Works Approval Process*

New Policy Proposals from corporate Commonwealth entities (such as SBS) for capital works which are estimated to have a whole-of-life cost of \$30 million or more (excluding fit-out), are subject to the Department of Finance's two stage capital works approval process.

The first stage approval process involves seeking the Government's in-principle agreement for a capital works project and securing the necessary funding to develop a detailed business case for further consideration by Government. The purpose of the Second Stage Approval Process is to secure Government approval and funding for implementation and delivery of a project in accordance with the detailed business case.

*Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works*

Under the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is required to consider the purpose, need, scope, cost effectiveness, any expected revenue and public value of proposed public works and report its findings to Parliament.

Public works exceeding \$15 million (GST exclusive) must be referred to the Committee. Public works between \$5 million and \$15 million (GST exclusive) are required to provide a medium works notification to the Committee.

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## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway

MS24-001092

Mr George Savvides AM  
Chairperson  
Special Broadcasting Service Board  
Locked Bag 28  
CROWS NEST NSW 1585

s47F [REDACTED]@sbs.com.au

Dear Mr Savvides

*George*

Thank you for your letter of 15 July 2024 regarding the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study – Initial Feasibility Assessment Report (the report).

I appreciate the SBS Board's genuine consideration of the report's findings and recommendations. I note the Board has provided its conditional support for the continuation of Phase 2 work on the study, and also presented an alternative proposal for a stand-alone SBS television and radio production facility in Western Sydney.

I will now consider the report in the context of your advice, ahead of seeking broader agreement from the Australian Government on next steps for this work.

Thank you for your offer to meet to discuss the Board's alternate proposal in greater detail. My office will be in touch to arrange a suitable meeting time.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

*M. Rowland*

Michelle Rowland MP

13/8/2024

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP  
PO Box 6022, Parliament House Canberra  
Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 | (02) 9671 4780



## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway

MS24-001092

Mr Mike Mrdak AO  
s47F

Dear Mr Mrdak

I am writing regarding your role as Chair of the Steering Committee overseeing the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study.

I wish to thank you for your leadership and contribution to the completion of the *SBS Relocation Feasibility Study - Initial Feasibility Assessment Report* (the report). Following my receipt of the report, I wrote to the Chair of the SBS to seek the SBS Board's views on the report. I received a formal response on 15 July 2024 and am now considering the report in light of the advice provided by the Board.

As you may be aware, Steering Committee appointments are due to expire on 31 August 2024. Noting it will take some time for the Australian Government to determine next steps for the study, I do not propose to renew appointments at this time. However, I would welcome your continued involvement in this work in the future, should there be a need to re-establish a Steering Committee.

I appreciate there are many stakeholders interested in the outcomes of the study and would be grateful if you could refer any enquiries that you receive to the department, via Margaret Lopez, Assistant Secretary, Media Industry and Sustainability Branch, email: s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au.

Thank you again for your service as Chair of the Steering Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

13 / 8 / 2024

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP  
PO Box 6022, Parliament House Canberra  
Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 | (02) 9671 4780





## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway

MS24-001092

Mr James Taylor  
Managing Director  
Special Broadcasting Service  
14 Herbert St  
ARTARMON NSW 2064

s47F [REDACTED]@sbs.gov.au

Dear Mr Taylor

I am writing regarding your role as a member of the Steering Committee overseeing the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study.

I wish to thank you for your contribution to the completion of the *SBS Relocation Feasibility Study - Initial Feasibility Assessment Report* (the report). As you are aware, I wrote to the Chair of the SBS to seek the SBS Board's views on the report in May 2024 and received a response on 15 July 2024. I am now considering the report in light of the advice provided by the Board.

As you may be aware, Steering Committee appointments are due to expire on 31 August 2024. Noting it will take some time for the Australian Government to determine next steps for the study, I do not propose to renew appointments at this time. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (my department) will be in touch should there be a need to re-establish a Steering Committee in the future.

I appreciate the ongoing collaboration between the SBS and my department in the delivery of this important work.

Thank you again for your service as a member of the Steering Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

13/8/2024

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PO Box 6022, Parliament House Canberra  
Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 | (02) 9671 4780



## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway

MS24-001092

Ms Daryl Karp AM  
Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Australian National Maritime Museum  
2 Murray Street  
DARLING HARBOUR NSW 2000

[daryl.karp@sea.museum](mailto:daryl.karp@sea.museum)

Dear Ms Karp

I am writing regarding your role as a member of the Steering Committee overseeing the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study.

I wish to thank you for your contribution to the completion of the *SBS Relocation Feasibility Study - Initial Feasibility Assessment Report* (the report). As you are aware, I wrote to the Chair of the SBS to seek the SBS Board's views on the report in May 2024 and received a response on 15 July 2024. I am now considering the report in light of the advice provided by the Board.

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I appreciate there are many stakeholders interested in the outcomes of the study and would be grateful if you could refer any enquiries that you receive to The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, via Margaret Lopez, Assistant Secretary, Media Industry and Sustainability Branch, email: [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au).

Thank you again for your service as a member of the Steering Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

13 / 8 / 2024

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PO Box 6022, Parliament House Canberra  
Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 | (02) 9671 4780



## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway

MS24-001092

Mr Mark Ramsey  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vecor Technologies

s47F

Dear Mr Ramsey

I am writing regarding your role as a member of the Steering Committee overseeing the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study.

I wish to thank you for your contribution to the completion of the *SBS Relocation Feasibility Study - Initial Feasibility Assessment Report* (the report). As you are aware, I wrote to the Chair of the SBS to seek the SBS Board's views on the report in May 2024 and received a response on 15 July 2024. I am now considering the report in light of the advice provided by the Board.

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Thank you again for your service as a member of the Steering Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

13 / 8 / 2024

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## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

**Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway**

MS24-001092

Ms Bridget Gannon  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Online Safety, Media and Platforms Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22(1)(a)(ii) [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:_____@infrastructure.gov.au)

Dear Ms Gannon

I am writing regarding your role as a member of the Steering Committee overseeing the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Relocation Feasibility Study.

I wish to thank you for your contribution to the completion of the *SBS Relocation Feasibility Study - Initial Feasibility Assessment Report* (the report). As you are aware, I wrote to the Chair of the SBS to seek the SBS Board's views on the report in May 2024 and am now considering the report in light of the advice provided by the Board.

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Thank you again for your service as a member of the Steering Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

14 / 08 / 2024

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