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**Media Statement
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FREE TV STATEMENT ON ANTI-SIPHONING LIST

Free TV Australia today notes the Government's announcement on the future of the anti-siphoning list.

Free TV Chairman, Wayne Goss, says, "Changes that allow most listed sporting events to be shown on free-to-air digital multi-channels is good news for viewers and recognises the increasing popularity of these channels.

"The Government has faced a difficult task in updating the anti-siphoning rules in the digital television age whilst preserving the public interest."

"There has been a lot of give and take throughout this process which has resulted in tougher use-it or lose-it rules and the de-listing of numerous events."

The Government has signalled its intention to delist some games in the AFL rounds and to look at a similar approach to the NRL, in the future.

"Free TV shares the Government's determination to ensure that the best games remain available to *all* Australian viewers," says Goss.

Goss added, "Assuming the policy is reflected in the picks mechanism yet to be agreed, then overall the Government will have achieved a balanced outcome that will deliver free sport on more channels for all Australian viewers and help drive even further take-up of the successful free-to-air digital platform.

"Longer term it is vital that quality events do not migrate to pay TV forcing people to pay to watch them," says Goss.

For media enquiries, please contact Julie Flynn on 0408 455 456