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Statement
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Greens' call for media review unwarranted

Free TV Australia expressed concern today regarding the Greens' proposal for a wide-ranging review of media.

"A review would be unnecessary in light of the extensive and detailed regulations which already apply to the media," said Julie Flynn (CEO).

"Under the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, Free TV broadcasters are subject to strict requirements regarding factual accuracy and fair representation of viewpoints and these provisions are strenuously enforced by the regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority", said Ms Flynn.

"There are also provisions which require early correction of factual inaccuracies, the fair and impartial presentation of news and a clear distinction between factual material and commentary," Ms Flynn said. "The rules regarding factual accuracy and the presentation of views extend to promotions for news and current affairs programs."

"Broadcasters are also subject to rules preventing misleading simulation of news events and the creation of public panic. There are also rules preventing the unfair identification of individuals in news stories commenting on the behaviour of groups."

"We further note that the Government is already conducting three major reviews into the media in Australia, a very broad-ranging review which is tasked with reviewing the whole regulatory framework for converged media, a review of classification by the Australian Law Reform Commission and a Government review into privacy," Ms Flynn said.

"In our view, a further broad-ranging review is therefore unnecessary and we are concerned about the potential for such a review to impact on the timely completion of the Convergence Review."

-ENDS-

Media enquiries and interviews:

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