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Media Release
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Television Industry Code of Practice Amendment Approved

Free TV welcomes the decision by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to approve an amendment to the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice.

The change clarifies the operation of the previous Code provision allowing stations to schedule an extra minute of political advertising in each hour between 6pm and midnight during election periods (existing clause 5.7.2). It confirms that stations may use the additional minute without breaching the averaging requirements (existing clause 5.6).

The change should ensure that broadcasters are able to meet all requests for political advertising time during election periods.

The change to the Code (attached) is effective immediately.

-ENDS-

Media enquiries and interviews:

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Approved Amendment

The approved amendment inserts the **bold** text into existing Code clause 5.6:

- 5.6 On any day each licensee may in each hour schedule on average no more than the following amounts of non-program matter:
 - 5.6.1 between 6.00pm and midnight **outside election periods**, 13 minutes;
 - 5.6.2 **between 6.00pm and midnight in election periods, 14 minutes, provided that on average no more than 13 minutes per hour comprises non-program matter that is not political matter;**
 - 5.6.2 at all other times – other than in P or C periods – 15 minutes;
- 5.7 In any hour, each licensee may (provided that the averages in Clause 5.6 are satisfied) schedule the following amounts of non-program matter:
 - 5.7.1 between 6.00pm and midnight outside election periods – up to 15 minutes per hour, but with no more than 14 minutes scheduled in any four of those hours;
 - 5.7.2 between 6.00pm and midnight in election periods – up to 15 minutes per hour, plus one minute per hour of non-program matter that is political matter, provided that the licensee supplies to Free TV Australia for public release an hourly summary of political advertising and other non-program matter in respect of each day in which this additional minute has been utilised;
 - 5.7.3 at all other times – up to 16 minutes.