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MEDIA RELEASE
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**Free TV Australia welcomes the appointment of
Senator Stephen Conroy as
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

Free TV Australia today welcomed the announcement from Prime Minister-elect, Kevin Rudd that Senator Stephen Conroy will be appointed as the Government's new Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

Free TV Chairman David Leckie said he looks forward to working with Senator Conroy at this challenging time for the broadcast industry.

"We are enormously pleased that Senator Conroy will be appointed to this portfolio. The Senator has demonstrated an impressive understanding of the issues facing free-to-air broadcasters during his time as Shadow Minister. More than 98 per cent of people rely on their Free TV broadcasters for their television, particularly news, sport and Australian production and it is critical that Australian families continue to receive the services they have come to value so highly," Mr Leckie said.

Julie Flynn, CEO of Free TV said: "There are a number of key issues facing the industry at this time and we are confident that Senator Conroy is well placed to address them.

"Some of the key issues for Free TV are managing the switchover to digital broadcasting, protecting the ability of Australians to continue to watch their sporting events for free, and the increasing fragmentation of the media environment.

"As the representative of Australia's 54 commercial television licensees, I look forward to building on our strong working relationship with Senator Conroy and the new Rudd Labor Government," Ms Flynn said.

For media enquiries, please call Free TV Australia – (02) 8968 7100.