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FREE TV APPOINTS INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Peak industry group, Free TV Australia, today announced the appointment of Mr Wayne Goss to the newly created role of Independent Chair.

The role has been created to provide a focused and united voice for the industry as it faces a number of important challenges in the lead up to digital switchover.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Goss said, "It's an exciting time for the industry and a time of significant change.

"Free-to-air commercial television is an important part of our culture; it's in 99 per cent of Australian homes and three quarters of the population rely solely on free-to-air for their television service. So I look forward to working closely with the Government and the community to ensure that Australian families continue to receive the services they have come to value so highly."

Mr Goss will work closely with the organisation's chief executive, Julie Flynn and its board members on matters affecting the free-to-air television industry.

Ms Flynn says, "We are very excited to have Mr Goss on board. His commitment to public life has been outstanding and we value the experience and knowledge he will bring to the table."

The position of Chair has previously been held on a rotating basis by the CEOs of the commercial television networks.

Mr Leckie, current Chair, welcomed the appointment. He said, "I have strongly encouraged an independent and dedicated Chair of Free TV because of the expansion of the role due to the introduction of digital terrestrial television, multichannelling and the many changes that will come with them. We are fortunate in having been able to secure Wayne Goss who will bring a wealth of experience to the role."

Mr Leckie has served as Chairman for three terms including two in his time while CEO of the Nine Network. The position takes effect 1 May, 2008.

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Media enquiries and interviews:

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BACKGROUND

Free TV Australia is the industry body representing all of Australia's commercial free-to-air television licensees.

Wayne Goss is currently Chairman of Deloitte Australia and of Ausenco Limited. He is a former Chairman of the Queensland Art Gallery and the Government Reform Commission with the South Australian Government.