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100% OF ACQUIRED LISTED SPORTS ARE BROADCAST ON FREE TV

Commercial-free-to-air broadcasters show 100% of all listed sports they acquire.

Free TV Chairman, Harold Mitchell AC, has rejected claims made today by the Pay TV industry lobby group ASTRA to the Senate Committee inquiring into the Media Reform bills, that Free TV broadcasters acquire broadcasting rights to sports on the anti-siphoning list which they do not show.

Mr Mitchell says, "The claim that commercial free-to-air broadcasters don't show the listed sports that they acquire is not correct and continues the misleading claims made by ASTRA about the operations of the list."

"The anti-siphoning list was designed to ensure that all Australians are able to see major sporting events for free and is not based on whether or not they can afford to pay, added Mr Mitchell.

Free TV Australia recently reviewed the listed sports acquired by the commercial free-to-air broadcasters and their subsequent broadcast in the calendar year 2015.

The commercial networks acquired 1,420 hours of 'anti-siphoning' sport programming rights covering AFL, NRL, rugby union, cricket, tennis, netball, golf and motor sports.

All or 100% of the rights acquired were broadcast: 1,357 hours (95.6%) being broadcast live and 63 hours (4.4%) as delayed broadcast.

Mr Mitchell said, "These figures highlight the commitment of commercial free-to-air broadcasters to ensuring that there is more sport available live and free to Australians than ever before.

"Sporting programs continue to dominate the ratings. The public interest in maintaining the anti-siphoning list is as strong today as when the list was first established."

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