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Media Statement 10 March 2016

FREE TV RESPONSE TO SPECTRUM REFORM PROPOSALS

Free TV will carefully review the spectrum reform proposals outlined by the Minister for Communications, Senator Mitch Fifield today.

It is critical that any spectrum reforms:

- Recognise the ongoing importance to viewers across Australia of high quality, interference-free commercial television broadcasting services; and
- Provides certainty of access for television broadcasters so they can continue to invest and innovate to address the changing viewing habits of Australians.

We welcome Minister Fifield's comments that under the new reforms, existing broadcasters will have certainty of access to spectrum. However, we need to understand the proposed approach to key issues such as pricing, length of tenure, and renewal rights under the proposed new framework.

Virtually every Australian household has access to commercial free-to-air television, with over 13 million Australians watching commercial free TV every day. More than 70% of people rely exclusively on free-to-air broadcasters for their television services.

The high value of social and cultural uses of spectrum, including by free-to-air broadcasters, must not be overlooked as part of the reform process.

Free TV will provide a detailed response to the proposals as part of the formal submissions process.

For media enquiries contact Free TV Australia on (02) 8968 7100