



Media Release
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Free TV urges Government to fast-track critical reforms while it considers future spectrum use

Free TV Australia has today indicated that it will work with the Government as part of its taskforce on the future of free-to-air television delivery options but has urged that critical reforms be pursued without further delay.

Bridget Fair, Free TV Australia Chief Executive Officer, said: “The announcement from the Government today acknowledges the critical issues faced by the Free TV sector and the millions of Australians who rely on our services.

“While we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the Government on the future delivery options for television services, there remain policy matters that must be addressed now in order to ensure that Australians can continue to enjoy access to local news, Australian entertainment programming and live and free sport.

“This means that the Government must commit now to:

- Introducing a new law to require that free TV services, including live TV and catch-up apps, are prominent and easy for consumers to find on modern digital television sets;
- Protecting the access of all Australians to live and free sport by renewing the anti-siphoning list and expanding it to guard against sport being put behind the paywalls of multi-national streaming companies; and
- Building on the Government’s commitment to extend the commercial broadcasting spectrum tax support payments for regional broadcasters by reducing the tax for all broadcasters in line with international best practice.

“Now is the time to act on these issues. With 13 million Australians tuning in each and every day to commercial television, there is no time to wait to secure the future of these vital services.

“Imagine if Ash Barty’s Aussie Open triumph was only available to those Australians who could afford to subscribe to a streaming service, or had reliable internet? This is the stark reality that we face if these important reforms are not immediately put in place.

These messages are being reinforced by our public campaign—[Free. For Everyone](#)—that launched in December 2021. This campaign, currently being rolled out across the country, reinforces the value of free television to Australians and its power to bring Australians from all walks of life together.

“We remain committed to working with all sides of politics to ensure that the policy settings are right for the future of television services that all Australians rely on. That work must start today.”



ENDS

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ABOUT FREE TV AUSTRALIA

Free TV Australia is a leading media industry organisation. It represents all of Australia's commercial free-to-air television licensees through advocacy, innovation and strategic advice. The members of Free TV Australia are Seven West Media, Nine Entertainment Co, Network 10, Southern Cross Austereo, WIN Network and Imparja Television.