

NEWS

Anti-siphoning

On 28 April 2011, the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy stated that the AFL's new broadcasting agreement "was consistent with reforms to the anti-siphoning scheme announced by the Government last year" and that the Government intends to introduce legislative amendments regarding the anti-siphoning scheme into Parliament "shortly". Full media release here:

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/161

Details on the Government's proposed changes are available on the DBCDE website at:

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/television/antisiphoning_and_antihoarding/sport_on_television_review_of_the_antisiphoning_scheme

Convergence Review

On 21 April 2011, the Minister announced Louise McElvogue as the third member of the Convergence Review Committee, joining the Chair, Mr Glen Boreham, and Mr Malcolm Long, as members of the three-person Review Committee. Full media release available here:

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/159

On 28 April 2011, the Convergence Review Committee released a framing paper for the Review and issued a call for submissions. An 'emerging issues' paper, incorporating feedback on the framing paper, is expected to be released in June, with a full discussion paper seeking further comment due to be released in August.

Full media release available here: http://www.dbcde.gov.au/news-and-events/departments/media_releases/convergence_review_committee_calls_for_submissions

Further information on the Convergence Review is available at:

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/convergence_review

ALRC Review of censorship and classification

On 21 April 2011, the Federal Attorney-General announced the appointment of Professor Terry Flew to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to head the ALRC's review of the National Classification Scheme. Professor Flew is Professor of Media and Communications at the Queensland University of Technology.

The ALRC is planning to release an issues paper by the end of May, and a discussion paper by the end of August with its final report being due to the Attorney-General by 30 January 2012. Further details on the ALRC Review of the National Classification Scheme is available here:

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/national-classification-review>

Copyright

The Digital Entertainment Alliance Australia (DEAA) has formed to join the Australian Content Industry Group and other copyright holder organisations in negotiating with telecommunications carriers and the Government for a solution to online piracy. The DEAA includes BBC Worldwide, Foxtel, News Limited, the

Independent Cinemas Association, the National Association of Cinema Operators, the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft, the Australian Home Entertainment Distributors Association, the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Hopscotch Films, Hoyts, Blockbuster, Video Ezy, Deluxe Entertainment, Potential Films, Palace Films and Becker Entertainment.

Digital Switchover

On 19 April 2011 the Minister made two determinations which set 6 December 2011 as the digital switchover date for most of the Regional Queensland television licence area, with the exception of the Sunshine Coast area where analog terrestrial television will switch off on 30 June 2013 (at the same time as the Brisbane metropolitan area). For further information see the [Broadcasting Services \(Digital-Only Local Market Areas for Regional Queensland TV1\) Determination \(No. 1\) 2011](#) and the [Broadcasting Services \(Simulcast Period for Regional Queensland TV1\) Determination \(No. 1\) 2011](#).

ACMA Anti-Terrorism Standards

The ACMA has made new Anti-Terrorism Standards for open and subscription narrowcast television services, to come into effect on 1 July 2011. The Standards provide that open and subscription narrowcast television services must not broadcast a program that would be reasonably understood as directly recruiting a person to join, or participate in the activities of, a listed terrorist; or would be reasonably understood as soliciting funds for a listed terrorist; or assisting in the collection or provision of funds for a listed terrorist; or advocates the doing of a terrorist act. The standards place the obligation on narrowcast television services to ensure that prohibited programs will not be broadcast. Further details are available on the ACMA website at: http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_100311

INDUSTRY BRIEFINGS

Network Insight

This month, Network Insight is conducting two seminars in Sydney related to the Convergence Review:

- 9 May 2011: Internet, Telecoms and Convergence: the legal and policy challenge
- 16 May 2011: Convergence and TV: policy and legal challenges

Further information is available on the Network Insight website: <http://www.networkinsight.org/>

ACMA Radcomms2011 Conference

The ACMA Radcomms Conference, ACMA's annual conference on spectrum management, will be held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Pyrmont, Sydney. The keynote speakers are the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, and Dr Martin B.H. Weiss from the University of Pittsburgh. Further information is available on the ACMA website at: <http://engage.acma.gov.au/radcomms/>

ASTRA ACTIVITY

- **ACMA 'Clearing the Digital Dividend' Discussion Paper** - On 4 April 2011, ASTRA made a submission to ACMA's 'Clearing the Digital Dividend' Discussion Paper. ASTRA's submission is available [here](#). Further information is available on the ACMA website at: http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_312464

- **Senate Inquiry into the National Classification Scheme** – On 7 April 2011, ASTRA appeared at public hearings before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into classification. ASTRA subsequently provided further written advice to the Committee in response to questions on notice, available [here](#). Further information on the Inquiry is available on the [Committee's website](#).
- **ACMA Co-regulatory Captioning Committee** – ASTRA continues its involvement with the ACMA's captioning quality consultation process, together with a range of industry and community stakeholders.
- **Closed captioning** - ASTRA is continuing its discussions with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy in relation to its Media Access Report. Legislation to implement captioning levels and quality standards under broadcasting legislation is expected to be introduced during the Winter session of Parliament (May-July 2011).
- **ASTRA Codes Review** – the process of reviewing and updating the ASTRA Codes continues with the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

The Policy Calendar on the ASTRA website has been updated and is available here:
<http://astra.org.au/pages/policy-calendar>

DISCUSSION PAPERS/REQUESTS FOR COMMENT

Convergence Review Framing Paper

On 28 April 2011, the Convergence Review Committee released a framing paper for the Review and issued a call for submissions. The framing paper outlines the Committee's initial thinking on a number of principles that could inform the Committee in its conduct of the review. Submissions in response to the framing paper are due 10 June 2011. The framing paper is available on the DBCDE website at:
http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/convergence_review.

ASTRA expects to make a submission in response to the framing paper.