

Answers to Questions on Notice

Question for Nine Entertainment:

1. Is this the comprehensive response to the issues raised in the Finkelstein Report and Convergence Review that you expected?
2. The department told the committee yesterday that it canvassed the Bills with television networks in November 2012. Was that the case then? Is it still the case now?

Answer:

1. It's a sufficient response to those enquiries; and

2. The substance of:

- the Licence fee relief;
- flexibility of content on multi channels;
- new Australian content requirements on multi channels;
- no fourth commercial Licence; and
- the abolition of the 75% rule,

were all canvassed with me as Chairman of Free TV in November last year. I duly reported those discussions to each of the CEO's of Networks TEN, Seven and Prime, the latter being the representative of the regional broadcasters, and the Bills in respect of those matters are consistent with all of those discussions.

There was no discussion with me in my capacity as Chairman of Free TV or as Managing Director of the Nine Network, in relation to the public interest test, either in November or at any other time prior to the Government releasing the Bills.