

Media Release
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FREE TV networks do not “hoard” sporting events

The pay TV lobby's false and spurious claim that Free TV networks "hoard" sporting events is designed to do one thing only: force the 75% of Australians who can't afford or choose not to take pay TV **pay** to watch sport on television.

The facts:

- Only ten sports - plus the Olympic and Commonwealth Games - are on the antisiphoning list.
- These sports include the Melbourne Cup, AFL, Australian Open Tennis, Australian Formula One Grand Prix and cricket matches played in Australia.
- As any fan knows, these sports **are** shown on free-to-air television.
- Which of these ten sports would the Australian public wish to pay for?

What the pay TV spin team alleges:

- ASTRA claims are 1300 “events” on the list.
- What they don't say is 838 of those “events” comprise individual matches in the Australian Open and Wimbledon tennis tournaments.
- NRL and AFL make up a further 381 “events” and V8 motor cars a further 38, giving a total of 1257 of the 1300 "events".
- Furthermore, in the case of the tennis tournaments, only six courts actually have cameras so many matches cannot be televised by anyone.
- ASTRA's numbers are nonsense - but they illustrate how pay TV distorts the argument.

Wimbledon shows how the anti-siphoning list works in ALL Australian viewers' interests:

- The list allows the free-to-air rights holder first choice in the matches it will show.
- Channel Nine acquires exclusive rights to six Wimbledon matches per day.
- All other matches are available to pay TV.

- This means the free-to-air broadcaster selects the matches most viewers expect to see, leaving the bulk of the 426 matches - or “events” as pay TV describes them - available to pay TV.
- This is obviously a big win for all Australian viewers, who can see the best matches for **free**, while those who wish can pay for complementary coverage - exactly what the list was created to do.

Free-to-air broadcasters use the sporting rights they acquire and unused rights are made available to pay TV by either the sports rights holder or the free-to-air broadcaster.

For 50 years Australian viewers have been able to watch the best local and international sporting events on television for free.

This continues to be the case and the only people wanting to force change are the pay TV industry.

Taking sports off the anti-siphoning list will only result in ordinary families having to pay hundreds of dollars a year to see much-loved sports on television, or missing out altogether.

-ENDS-

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