

22 May 2017

SPA welcomes Government response to ACMA Review

Today, our CEO, Matthew Deaner welcomed the **Government's response to the Review of the Australian Communications and Media Authority**, but noted the Government has not gone far enough to address competition issues in the market.

"The organisational and governance reforms within the ACMA will set the regulator up to better engage with the industry. I look forward to seeing the Ministerial Statement of Expectations for the ACCC and the ACMA, as well as the ACMA's overarching policy objectives."

"However, some competition issues have fallen through the cracks. As highlighted by Kim Dalton recently, there is an absence of competition controls around the ABC's market power in negotiating with the independent production sector. The same goes for the other broadcasters. The relative market power of buyers and sellers in our industry needs attention."

"In this review, the Government has missed an opportunity to fully explore the potential for ACMA's role in mediating competition issues in the market. In the UK, Ofcom oversees relationships between broadcasters and the independent production sector. In the complementary process of the Content Review and the Parliamentary Inquiry, SPA will continue to press for greater consideration of competition issues."

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About Screen Producers Australia:

Screen Producers Australia was formed by the screen industry to represent large and small enterprises across a diverse production slate of feature film, television and interactive content. Our members employ hundreds of producers, thousands of related practitioners and drive more than \$1.7 billion worth of annual production activity from the independent sector. On behalf of these businesses we are focused on delivering a healthy commercial environment through ongoing engagement with elements of the labour force, including directors, writers, actors and crew, as well as with broadcasters, distributors and government in all its various forms. This coordinated dialogue ensures that our industry is successful, employment levels are strong and the community's expectations of access to high quality Australian content have been met.