



federation of australian commercial television stations
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Ms Andrea Griffiths
Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts References Committee
S1.57 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

BY EMAIL: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Griffiths

BROADCASTING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2001

The Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (FACTS) supports the submission of the regional commercial television broadcasters on the *Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2001*.

In particular, FACTS welcomes the support by the regional broadcasters of the proposed new clause 37EA of the Bill. As you know, the proposed clause will allow the Australian Broadcasting Authority to determine that specified advertising matter on the HDTV version of a commercial television broadcasting service may be different from advertising or sponsorship matter on the SDTV version of the service.

FACTS also supports the amendment proposed by regional broadcasters to the new subclause 37EA(5). The subclause in its present form restricts the period during which the non-program content of the HDTV and SDTV feed may differ to a maximum of two years.

We agree with regional broadcasters that there are no obvious policy reasons for imposing any time limit on the ABA's determination power. We therefore support the proposal that subclause 37EA(5) should be deleted. If the Committee believes there should be some time limit we believe that the 2 year period specified in the Bill should be extended to at least 5 years.

Yours faithfully

JULIE FLYNN
Chief Executive Officer

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