



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

24 Brisbane Avenue Barton ACT 2600 • PO Box 4286 Manuka ACT 2603 • Australia
email: aha@aha.org.au • Facsimile: (02) 6273 4011 • Telephone: (02) 6273 4007

David Elliott
Director National Affairs

2 February 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

PROPOSED ANTI-SIPHONING CHANGES

I write on behalf of the Australian Hotels Association which represents more than 8,500 hotels throughout Australia.

Our members offer an incredibly diverse range of services, including accommodation, food and beverage offerings, as well as acting as a hub for the community. AHA members also provide a broad range of entertainment, cultural and social services. These include artistic and cultural events, live and pre-recorded music, other competitions and offerings and pay television services.

Pay television services, including music, sports and news channels are a very important part of the service offering of our members. They provide a range of choice to our customers and allow people to congregate in our establishments to view a number of sporting events which would otherwise not be seen on television.

In relation to these sporting events, our members need to know what will be included on each of the channels as far as possible in advance in order to best market and promote these services to the public.

As a result, the AHA supports the proposed amendments to the anti-siphoning scheme which would see the automatic de-listing of events move from six weeks to 12 weeks before an event. While the reform is only a minor change to the scheme, the AHA agrees with the Government and the Opposition that the change will improve the efficiency of the operation of the de-listing provision of the anti-siphoning scheme to the benefit of sporting bodies and viewers.

Having certainty about the programming of sporting events to be included on pay TV sports channels 12 weeks from an event would assist our members in working with the public and those channels in making plans to market and promote those sports to our customers and the public at large.

The AHA would be concerned if any further changes were proposed to be made to the anti-siphoning scheme in a way which adversely affected these establishments without full and proper consultation. The AHA notes that the current anti-siphoning scheme is already particular widely drafted and the AHA is not aware of any community concern or public detriment which has occurred because of the way in which the pay television sector has operated its businesses.

The AHA would expect to be consulted before any changes were mooted which could have the direct or indirect effect of limiting the range of services we offer to the public through our pay television channels.

We would be happy to provide further information about this submission, and attend the public hearing if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Elliott', written in a cursive style.

David Elliott
DIRECTOR NATIONAL AFFAIRS