



Australian Government

Department of Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy

The Role of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Australia's media and communications regulatory environment

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Department of Broadband,
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Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

MINISTER

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Australian
Communications
& Media Authority



Department of
Broadband,
Communications
and the Digital
Economy



Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Australia
Post



National Broadband
Network Company



Special
Broadcasting
Service



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Regulation of Communications

The Department administers key communications legislation including:

- Telecommunications Act
- Radiocommunications Act
- Broadcasting Services Act

Key issues:

- Efficient competition and economic sustainability
- Technological neutrality
- Transparency in regulation
- Independent regulatory bodies
- Self-regulation
- Long-term interests of users



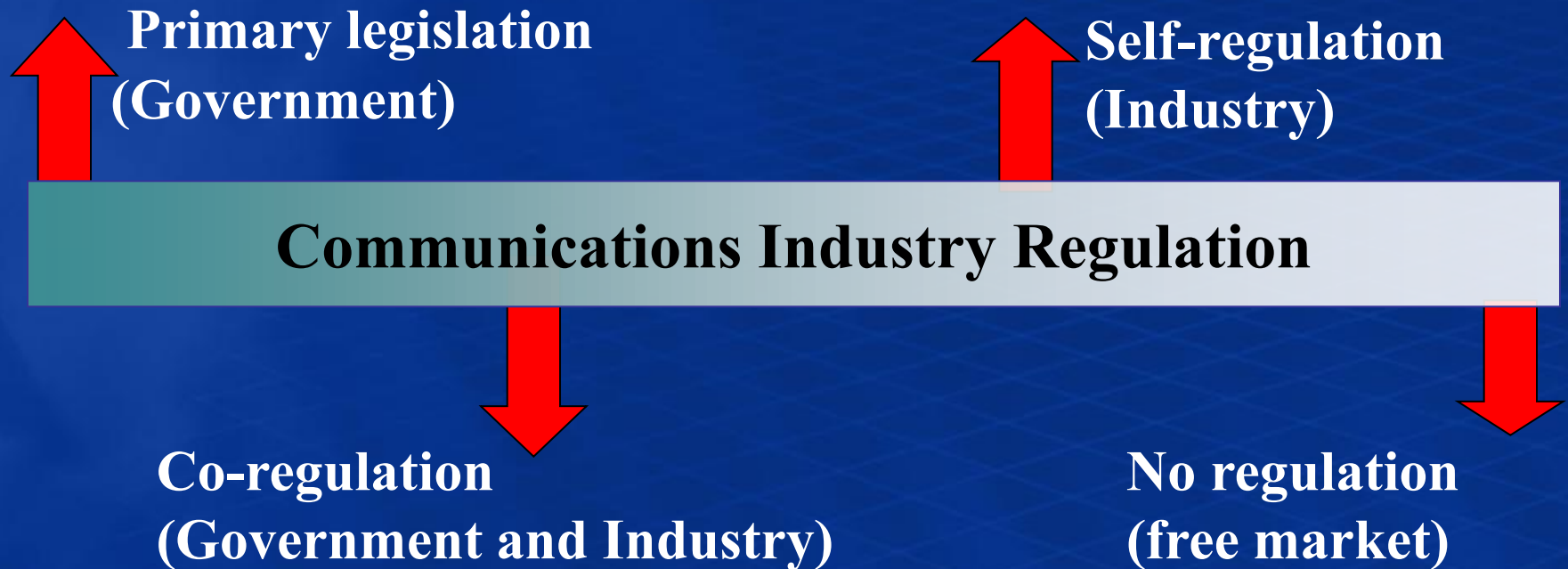


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Regulatory Protection



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGULATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BROADCASTING AND ONLINE SERVICES

Content

Carriage

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
 Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

POLICY ADVICE
 Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

- INDUSTRY BODIES WITH CO-REGULATORY FUNCTIONS**
- Free TV Australia (Commercial Television Industry Body)
 - Commercial Radio Australia (CRA)
 - Australian Subscription TV and Radio Association (ASTRA)
 - Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA)
 - Internet Industry Association (IIA)

GOVERNMENT REGULATORS

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
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- INDUSTRY BODIES WITH CO-REGULATORY FUNCTIONS**
- Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO)
 - Communications Alliance (CA)

OPERATORS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National Broadcasters •Commercial Broadcasters •Community Broadcasters •Subscription Broadcasters •Narrowcasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Carriers •Telephone Service Providers •Internet Service Providers •Broadcast Transmission Providers
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USERS

Australian Telecommunications User Group (ATUG)	Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
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■ Regulation ■ Accountability



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Consumer Protection

Australian Consumer Law

Australian Competition
and Consumer
Commission (ACCC)

The Australian
Communications
Consumer Action
Network (ACCAN)

Telecommunications Act 1997

Australian
Communications
and Media Authority
(ACMA)

Spam Act 2003

Do Not Call Act 2006

Communications
Alliance (CA)

Industry consumer codes

Telecommunications
Industry Ombudsman
(TIO)

Mobile Premium Services Code

Telecommunications Consumer Protection



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Broadcasting and Content

- Broadcasting legislation seeks to:
 - promote a wide range of broadcasting services,
 - deliver Australian content,
 - encourage diversity in control of influential services; and
 - ensure the provision of content appropriate to viewers and listeners, including children.
- Co-regulatory framework in place





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Australian Content Standard

The Australian Content Standard:

- promotes Australian identity, character and cultural diversity
- by supporting access to television programs produced under Australian creative control
- requires that 55% of programming on commercial television is Australian content
- requires minimum levels of first-release Australian drama and children's programs
- only applies to commercial broadcasters



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Digital TV Switchover

- Conversion from analog to digital TV is regulated in broadcasting legislation
- Phased region-by-region switchover timetable by end 2013. Has already commenced in regional Australia.
- Digital dividend – sold in 2012 and cleared by 2014





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National Broadband Network

- Increase access to next-generation high-speed broadband nationally
- Improve competition in the telco sector into the future
- Support uniform national wholesale pricing
- Wholesale-only, open, equivalent and transparent access
- Strict ACCC oversight
- Government ownership until NBN is complete; sale is subject to independent inquiry & Parliamentary approval
- Rules set out in legislation before Parliament
- Regulatory framework consistent with international obligations



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Future Challenges

- Convergence
 - Devices and platforms which originally had distinct functionalities are converging
 - VOIP
 - IPTV
- Market structure
- Competition
- Consumer protection



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Further Information

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