

AMENDING THE ANTI-SIPHONING SCHEME

May 2017

As part of landmark reforms to the broadcasting sector, the Government is amending the anti-siphoning scheme to remove outdated and redundant provisions and streamline the anti-siphoning list. These changes will enable the scheme to operate more effectively in a digital media environment while ensuring that broadcast rights to events of national and cultural significance continue to be available to free-to-air television before subscription television.



What is the scheme?

The anti-siphoning scheme aims to ensure that sporting events of cultural or national significance remain freely available to all Australian viewers. It does this by preventing subscription broadcasters from acquiring the rights to sporting or cultural events placed on the anti-siphoning list until the events are acquired by a free-to-air broadcaster, or are automatically removed from the list 12 weeks before they commence.

What changes is the Government proposing?

The Government is proposing to:

- > Make targeted reductions to the anti-siphoning list to enable greater competition between subscription broadcasters and free-to-air television, while retaining significant sporting events on the list to ensure they remain widely available for Australian audiences.
- > Remove the restriction that prevents free-to-air broadcasters from televising their events solely on their digital multichannels in recognition that these channels are now widely available following the completion of digital television switchover in 2013.
- > Increase the time out from an event that events are automatically removed from the anti-siphoning list from 12 to 26 weeks – recognising the realities of sports rights deals and enabling subscription broadcasters to enter into rights agreements at an earlier time, plan their coverage and promote events to audiences.

The Government believes these changes strike a balance between the needs of the Australian public, rights holders and subscription and free-to-air broadcasters.



The Government has looked closely at the events on the current list, the audiences over time and the cultural and national significance of the events. The new list will ensure that the rights to events with widespread public appeal will remain available to free-to-air television before the subscription TV sector. The Government has worked closely with both free-to-air and subscription broadcasters and believes the new scheme strikes the right balance.

What are the changes to the anti-siphoning list?

PROPOSED NEW ANTI-SIPHONING LIST AND CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS LIST

SPORT	PROPOSED NEW LIST	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS LIST
FOOTBALL		
Australian Rules Football	Premiership (all matches, including finals and grand final)	NO CHANGE
Rugby League	NRL Premiership (all matches, including finals and grand final)	NO CHANGE
	State of Origin matches	NO CHANGE
	International test matches involving Australia, played in Australia or New Zealand	REMOVAL OF International test matches involving Australia played in the United Kingdom
	Matches of the World Cup involving Australia, played in Australia, New Zealand or Papua New Guinea	REMOVAL OF Matches of the World Cup involving Australia, played in countries other than Australia, New Zealand or Papua New Guinea
Soccer	Matches of the FIFA World Cup involving Australia, and the final	REMOVAL OF Matches of the FIFA World Cup not involving Australia, other than the final
	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers involving Australia, played in Australia	REMOVAL OF FIFA World Cup Qualifiers involving Australia, played outside of Australia
		REMOVAL OF English FA Cup final

SPORT	PROPOSED NEW LIST	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS LIST
FOOTBALL		
Rugby Union	International test matches involving Australia, played in Australia or New Zealand	REMOVAL OF International test matches involving Australia, played in South Africa or Europe
	Matches of the World Cup involving Australia, and the final	REMOVAL OF Quarter-finals and semi-finals of the World Cup not involving Australia
CRICKET		
Limited Overs	One Day International (ODI) matches involving Australia, played in Australia	NO CHANGE
	Twenty20 (T20) matches involving Australia, played in Australia	NO CHANGE
	Matches of the ODI World Cup involving Australia and the final, played in Australia or New Zealand	REMOVAL OF Matches of the ODI World Cup involving Australia and the semi-finals and final when played in countries other than Australia and New Zealand Semi-finals of the ODI World Cup not involving Australia when played in Australia or New Zealand
	Matches of the T20 World Cup involving Australia and the final, played in Australia or New Zealand	REMOVAL OF Matches of the T20 World Cup involving Australia and the final when played in countries other than Australia and New Zealand
Tests	International test matches involving Australia, played in Australia, and Ashes test matches played in the United Kingdom against England	NO CHANGE
TENNIS		
	Matches of the Australian Open	NO CHANGE
	Davis Cup matches involving Australia, played in Australia, and the final involving Australia	REMOVAL OF Davis Cup matches involving Australia, played outside Australia, other than the final

SPORT	PROPOSED NEW LIST	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS LIST
		REMOVAL OF The men's and women's singles quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of Wimbledon
		REMOVAL OF The men's and women's singles quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of the United States Open
GOLF		
		REMOVAL OF Australian Masters
		REMOVAL OF Australian Open
		REMOVAL OF United States Masters
OLYMPIC GAMES		
	Events held as part of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, including the opening and closing ceremonies	NO CHANGE
	Events held as part of the Commonwealth Games, including the opening and closing ceremonies	NO CHANGE
HORSE RACING		
	Melbourne Cup	NO CHANGE
NETBALL		
	The semi-final and final of the World Cup involving Australia	NO CHANGE
		REMOVAL OF International test matches involving Australia, played in Australia or New Zealand

SPORT	PROPOSED NEW LIST	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS LIST
MOTORSPORTS		
	Australian F1 Grand Prix	NO CHANGE
	Australian Moto Grand Prix	NO CHANGE
	The Bathurst 1000 race held as part of the V8 Supercars Championship	REMOVAL OF Races held as part of the V8 Supercars Championship, other than Bathurst

Glossary

- > Anti-siphoning list – a list of events or events of a kind that should be available free to the general public for example, the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.
- > Subscription TV – television services made available upon the payment of subscription fees (whether periodical or otherwise) and licensed under the Broadcasting Services Act 1992, such as Foxtel.
- > Digital multichannels – free-to-air television channels available through the same television network along with the broadcaster’s main channel. For example, 7mate and 7TWO.