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## **Spectrum review boosts transparency, efficiency**

ASTRA today welcomed the release of a Federal Government review of broadcasting spectrum that paves the way for changes to the way the public resource is managed and valued.

The Spectrum Review recommends a single licensing system, including the integration of broadcasting spectrum into the same planning, licensing and pricing scheme that will apply to all spectrum users.

“ASTRA welcomes the recommendations released today, which will make spectrum management simpler, more transparent and more efficient,” Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association CEO, Andrew Maiden, said today.

“The review is consistent with ASTRA’s core objectives of deregulation, open markets and free competition,” he said.

While ASTRA members use only limited spectrum for outside broadcasts and electronic news gathering, free-to-air television networks are heavy users of spectrum, making it important for the Government to clarify the implications of the review for that industry.

“It is important that all users of spectrum, including free-to-air television networks, are subject to consistent rules relating to the way the public resource is managed, allocated and valued,” Mr Maiden said.

“In a world of converging technology, countless media companies distribute their services to Australians over all manner of platforms including spectrum, satellite, cable and broadband.

“No particular industry should benefit from costly and distortionary privileges because their platform is exempted from the rules that apply to other users,” he said.

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About ASTRA – The Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA) is the peak body representing the subscription media industry in Australia. Members include content makers, distribution platforms, technology companies and supporting industries. ASTRA members produce content that reaches one in three Australians. In 2013/14 they invested more than \$600 million in local content production, added \$1.9 billion to the economy, and created jobs for 6600 Australians.