

23 February 2004



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
**New Media and
Digital Services**

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Dear Sir

**RE: THIRD LINE FORCING NOTIFICATIONS LODGED BY TELSTRA CORPORATION
LIMITED AND TELSTRA PAY TV PTY LIMITED – NOTIFICATION NUMBERS
N31277 AND N31278**

The Commission has requested comment on third line forcing conduct proposed by Telstra in relation to the bundling of Foxtel and Austar subscription television content on Telstra pay TV with Telstra communications, internet and broadband services.

The ABC continues to believe that bundling of Telstra's telecommunications, internet, broadband and pay television services will increase Telstra's market dominance. In particular, the ABC is concerned that a dominant player in the telecommunications market may choose not to prioritise regional rollout of broadband infrastructure. This would mean regional audiences would not have easy access to the ABC's broadband content, creating a divide between metropolitan and regional consumers.

These concerns have been raised in previous submissions by the ABC to the ACCC.

Yours sincerely

Lynley Marshall
Director
New Media and Digital Services
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