



Media and Communications

Policy Category: F. Media, Arts and Science

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Principles

The Australian Greens believe that:

1. freedom of the press and effective, affordable and accessible media and communications systems are integral to the functioning of a successful democratic society.
2. all Australians should be able to access a variety of affordable telecommunications.
3. media diversity in content and format is a right of all Australians.
4. strong, independent public and community media are an essential part of Australia's media sector.
5. Australian content should be strongly supported and well funded.
6. Australia must have an independent regulatory framework for media, communications and advertising.
7. public ownership of essential communications infrastructure is in the best interests of a democratic society.
8. net neutrality is important for an open internet.
9. digitalisation of broadcasting and other services requires government support and a public education campaign
10. documents placed in the public domain by government should be accessible with free non-proprietary software, and public data should be made available in open, interoperable formats.
11. the government should lead by example and embrace open source and open standards.

Goals

The Australian Greens want:

12. diversity of opinion and ownership of media across Australia.
13. our public broadcasters ABC and SBS to be leaders in the production of independent news, investigative journalism, analysis, entertainment and innovative programming and be free of advertising.
14. the ABC and the SBS to be governed by independent boards that include staff representation.
15. high quality Australian content across all media genres.
16. a vibrant and adequately funded community media sector.
17. Australian film, television and new media sectors which are dynamic and innovative.
18. all Australians to have access to community radio services that reflect geographical and cultural diversity.
19. affordable and reliable high speed internet connections available for all Australians.
20. independent regulation of media, communications and advertising.
21. Australia Post to remain a publicly owned monopoly provider of postal services.
22. the equitable installation of new communications infrastructure across Australia.
23. government information, both internal and external, to be made available in a format that is accessible by all, and is not restricted by the need to purchase additional software.
24. electronic government documents to be saved in an open document standard.
25. government to be an active proponent and contributor to open standard fora.
26. free and open publishing of publicly funded academic research within a 12 month period of initial publication.
27. a publicly funded research archive for all publicly funded academic research.

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

28. repeal those parts of the Broadcasting Services Act which reduce diversity of media ownership and opinion within Australia.
29. ensure diversity of ownership and opinion by introducing a media-specific public interest test to guide Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) decisions on proposed mergers and acquisitions of media entities.
30. strengthen diversity of media ownership by giving the ACCC the power to enforce the divestment of merged media companies where those mergers fail a media-specific public interest test.
31. provide sustainable funding for community broadcasting, including the change to digital technology.
32. make funding to the SBS and the ABC comparable to current per capita funding models for public broadcasting in the United Kingdom.
33. require the online services of the ABC and the SBS to be major portal sites for the promotion of Australian content in all genres.
34. expand the services provided by the ABC, including digital on demand and additional networks.
35. ensure that appointments to the boards of public broadcasters are subject to approval by the Parliament, rather than the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
36. reinstate the staff-appointed position on the ABC Board.
37. legislate to ensure truth in political advertising.
38. introduce a ban on junk food advertising during children's television viewing hours.
39. phase out alcohol promotions from times and placements which have high exposure to young people – including banning TV advertising of alcohol between 7am and 9.30pm.
40. ensure independent and transparent review of the ACMA website blacklist.
41. subject the installation of communications infrastructure, including mobile phone towers, to existing state and territory local government planning provisions.
42. introduce a nationally consistent approach to the regulated sale of X-rated material.
43. maintain the ban on parallel importation of books.
44. ensure free-to-air coverage of important sporting events, and other events of national and cultural significance.
45. legislate to protect individuals from vexatious and malicious defamation actions to ensure a wide range of participation in public debates.
46. legislate for the protection of anonymous journalistic sources to ensure press freedom.
47. increase research funding into the opportunities for Australian content and utilisation of new digital media.
48. ensure that alternative copyright and licensing schemes are given legal protection, and that clearer guidelines for fair dealing, crown copyright and public domain are created.
49. ensure that all public governmental data is released in open, interoperable standards.
50. amend the Copyright Act to create compulsory licenses for commercial reuse of news reports, to aid research, historical understanding and political discourse.
51. make the workings of the Australian Classification Board and OFLC more transparent and subject to public review.
52. ensure that regulation of the internet is transparent, accountable and protects freedom of speech, expression and access to information.
53. ensure that funding for Screen Australia is adequate to maintain a healthy Australian film industry.

AUSTRALIAN GREENS POLICY: Media and Communications (cont'd)

www.greens.org.au/about/policies

54. ensure that the National Film and Sound Archives are adequately funded to ensure Australia's cultural media history is preserved and protected.

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