



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

20 April 2007

Senator Welcomes \$600,000 Grant to Access 31

WA Liberal Senator and Senate Communications Chair, Dr Alan Eggleston, today welcomed the State Government's announcement of a \$600,000 grant for Perth community television channel, Access 31.

Senator Eggleston met with Access 31 in 2006 to discuss their need for digital spectrum. Subsequently, Senator Eggleston approached Communications Minister, the Hon. Helen Coonan, who assured that digital spectrum would be allocated to the community channel under the digital access plan in about 18 months.

"I am pleased that the Howard Government's initiative to provide Channel 31 with digital spectrum has enabled this vital community television station to apply for a financial grant from the State Government," Senator Eggleston said.

"Given the imminent termination of analogue TV, I was concerned that Access 31 would have to close down if they were unable to receive some assurance that they would receive access to digital spectrum."

"Unfortunately, the State Government was previously unwilling to provide Access 31 with a financial grant until they received confirmation that the Federal Government would provide the community channel with digital spectrum."

"Although it was a long time coming, this grant from the State Government will enable Access 31 to buy new equipment and, along with their new access to digital spectrum, will enable them to provide Perth residents with a more enhanced service."

Senator Eggleston concluded that Access 31 was undeniably the best community television station in Australia. The Senator said he looked forward to seeing the benefits which this grant will provide to the station with the roll out of digital television.