



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

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KEEP UP HOPMAN CUP ABC TV COVERAGE!

WA Liberal Senator Mathias Cormann has again called on ABC Managing Director Mark Scott to give a long term commitment to ABC TV coverage of the Hopman Cup.

Questioned at Senate Estimates by Senator Cormann today, ABC Managing Director Mark Scott refused to guarantee ABC TV coverage of the Hopman Cup into the future.

"The Hopman Cup is a unique Perth based international sporting event," Senator Cormann said.

"The ABC has had a very successful association with the Hopman Cup for more than 15 years.

"Until last year the ABC had made commitments to TV coverage of the Hopman Cup for a five year period at a time.

"Last year, Sydney based Eastern States centric ABC executives tried to pull the plug on supporting this unique Perth based tournament into the future.

"It seems that they're at it again.

"After questioning in Senate Estimates this time last year ABC Managing Director Mark Scott gave a commitment to make a decision and 'give some certainty' to tournament organisers 'over the coming weeks'.

"That never happened. Instead the ABC offered a mere one-year extension, which means that Hopman Cup organisers again find themselves in limbo.

Mr Scott was also unable to refute allegations that the Sydney based ABC headquarters had reduced Perth based local production over the past two years.

"This is a completely unsatisfactory situation and one that should be sorted out as soon as possible.

"The Hopman Cup issue is particularly pressing given the event is scheduled to relocate to the new purpose-built Perth Arena in two years' time.

"The ABC has delayed this decision for too long. Mr Scott should offer a long term commitment to future coverage of the Hopman Cup as soon as possible.

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