



15 May 2014

Statement from Seven West Media on AFP Senate Committee Inquiry

Seven West Media today welcomed the report of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee into the Current Investigative Processes and Powers of the Australian Federal Police in relation to non-criminal matters.

The Inquiry stemmed from the raids on Seven West Media premises on 18 February which saw over 30 armed Federal Police sent to search the premises of Seven in relation to a proposed media interview. The search warrants pursuant to which the AFP officers entered the premises were subsequently quashed by the Federal Court.

Seven West Media Chairman Kerry Stokes said “These raids were an outrageous intrusion on a free press and the civil rights of law abiding citizens. We are extremely pleased that the Senate Committee has recognized that the AFP raids on Seven were a complete overreaction to the circumstances and expressed the view that “the AFP has not justified its decision to apply for search warrants”.

“More importantly we very much welcome the considered views expressed by the Committee and its recommendations for sensible law reform that will improve AFP procedures, protect journalists’ sources and ensure that raids like these are a thing of the past.”