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Submission No. 15

## Queensland Broadcast of Parliament Select Committee

**Submission by Queensland Television Ltd (Nine Network)  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.**

### **Introduction:**

The Nine Network welcomes this opportunity to assist the Parliamentary Committee. We submit the existing free-to-air television cameras should remain in situ. We offer the following points for the Committee's consideration.

### **Submission:**

- The television news cameras have been in place and working well since 1996.
- The Nine Network was aware of the decision in 2001 to install new cameras in the chamber.
- The Nine Network understood the aim of installing the new cameras in the chamber was to provide coverage on the Internet.
- The project status document of February 2007 states:

*The broad outcome of the project is to implement a system that will enable video broadcasting **over the Internet** of parliamentary proceedings within the Legislative Assembly Chamber and within the Legislative Council Chamber. (our emphasis)*

- The Nine Network has no objections to the installation of addition cameras to provide live web streaming.
- We do, however, strongly object to moves to have our coverage of parliament sourced by these cameras.

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- The Nine Network believes these cameras are inadequate to provide the necessary footage to illustrate reports of parliamentary proceedings.
- The Nine Network relies on a variety of camera shots to adequately illustrate our reports.
- The output of the web cameras is insufficient for these needs.
- The footage provided by the web cameras will be controlled by Parliamentary staff, rather than network operators.
- We believe that this gives rise to concerns about quality, but also of potential censorship.
- The Nine Network observes the current Speaker has proposed far more restrictive guidelines for camera coverage of Parliament, which have been opposed by the Parliamentary Press Gallery.
- We fear such restrictions being imposed should control of cameras covering Parliament be placed in the hands of Parliamentary staff.

**Conclusion:**

- The Nine Network notes that no compelling reason has been given for the removal of our cameras
- The Nine Network contends that both camera systems should be allowed to operate.
- The Nine Network will continue to strenuously oppose any move to remove the free-to-air pool cameras from the people's chamber.