

Eager Ten shoots first in fight for 7pm

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CHANNEL TEN has fired the first shot in this year's television wars with a radical restructure of its prime-time schedule.

From January 23, the network's high-profile news and comedy amalgam, *The Project*, will move timeslots again, this time going head-to-head with Seven's and Nine's showpiece 6pm news bulletins.

The program, hosted by Dave Hughes and Charlie Pickering, will launch an additional 30-minute Sunday edition, which will also air at 6pm.

According to the Ten programming boss, David Mott, this latest restructure, which comes barely three months after *The Project* replaced George Negus's axed 6.30pm current affairs show, is aimed at freeing up the key 7pm slot.

Ten will launch a new season of its reality series *The Biggest Loser* at 7pm from January 23. *MasterChef* will take over in the 7pm slot later in the year. Ten's hour-long 5pm news bulletin will remain unchanged.

Mr Mott is pragmatic regarding the network's prospects against Seven's and Nine's traditional 6pm news broadcasts.

"We're under no illusions that it's going to win the timeslot," he said. "But we'll go for as many eyeballs as we can."