



The House Standing Committee on  
Communications and the Arts inquiry.

*“Factors contributing to the growth and sustainability  
of the Australian film and television industry”.*

Parliament House  
CANBERRA  
Canberra ACT

**Submission by Baddog Productions Pty Ltd, Managing Director Rob Thompson.**

Baddog Productions is a small multi media producer based in the Blue Mountains of NSW. During the 1990's we were almost entirely involved with television production, however by 2005 we were expanding into other other areas due to falling returns from the film and television industry. This now includes web site construction, graphic design, live events and arts productions.

We have now almost entirely ceased video production.

In 2014 we ended documentary production with a program titled “The Secrets of a Strange Cloud” which was broadcast on SBS and also a version edited for the international market. See <http://www.morninggloryclouddocumentary.com/> . We decided to discontinue independent documentary production due to the poor commercial returns. The reasons are obvious why this is so. Broadcasters are losing revenue in an ever expanding market and thus seeking cheaper content.

We believe that there will be an ongoing demand for high budget documentary series, movies and drama series but too many smaller companies such as ours are dropping out. We have been reducing staff numbers and haven't trained anyone new for nearly 10 years. Many of our colleagues in similar businesses are saying the same thing.

We are extremely concerned about maintaining skills in the industry and believe that a properly resourced local community television sector, perhaps in association with local educational institutions could provide vital “on the job” training. You only have to look at our local newspaper to see the demand for local content. The Blue Mountains Gazette is packed with advertisers.... a true indicator of how highly local content is regarded by local people. We believe that an online local television station would similarly attract smaller local advertisers who could not otherwise afford state wide or national advertising costs.

Whilst being a supporter of local community television as a means of growing industry skill levels, we feel it is important that any funding for such projects should be assessed, supervised and controlled Federally. Too often in the Blue Mountains have we seen locally managed project funding highly politicised and hijacked by people and groups with specific agendas and political affiliations.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

Rob Thompson,