



Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Dear Sir,

It is with dismay and utter disappointment that we read that consideration is being given to the deletion of the telecasting of Western Australian Football League matches on ABC Television on Saturday afternoons.

I am 82 years of age and my wife is 79 and we have been following W.A. football all our lives. In earlier days we used to regularly attend matches; however, we now find difficulty getting to matches (and seeing the play as well as we used to) and happily look forward to Saturday afternoons watching WAFL fixtures on our TV screen.

We are fully self-funded retirees and have paid considerable taxes all our lives and, not drawing a penny in old-age pension nor enjoying the other government benefits, we feel that some of our taxes should go towards allowing us to continue with our enjoyment of WAFL football, tuning into what used to be known as the people's channel.

We have relatives in country areas who are also avid followers of the Saturday afternoon WAFL games and we know the despair they are feeling now on possibly being denied the telecasting that they have had to rely upon, not being able to physically attend matches in Perth.

The WAFL competition has been in existence for more than a century with its clubs having proud traditions handed down from generation to generation. It is still alive and well despite its suffering with the introduction of the national competition (AFL). Let it be clear that the AFL is essentially an expanded VFL: Victorians have their competition intact with an extraordinary amount of TV exposure. Western Australians deserve to be given some consideration.

Everyone I speak to wants the Channel 2 coverage of W.A. football retained and I urge them to write as I have. However, as many are aged, apathy invariably sets in and I regret that there may be few who will vent their feelings and frustrations in a submission to you.

We appeal to the committee to retain the 3 hours of WAFL on Channel 2 which has been enjoyed for 25 years.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Lamb