

Ms Christine McDonald,
Secretary,
Senate
Standing Committee on Environment and Communications,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee,

I cannot believe that the ABC has decided to cancel their shortwave service. Obviously the person or persons involved has never been wholly reliant on this service for their news, information, entertainment and most crucially emergency weather and danger messenger.

In fact the only reason I can write this is because of the ABC shortwave service.. We were living alone on an island in the Gulf of Carpentaria with our two young children 2 and 5 when we were in the path of a cyclone. We lost all our material possessions but not our lives because the timely information we could monitor from the weather bureau and ABC news and warnings that we were able to take appropriate shelter in time. I wouldn't wish the experience on my worst enemy and it will happen again.

What the decision makers don't understand there are loads of people out bush not only living in remote areas but also moving through them. We rely on short wave for all important information. Mobiles don't work here. To quote my brother- in- law, " Mobile covers 90% of the country but it's the 10% who need it that can't access it". A lot of people can't afford a Satellite phone, not so much the cost of the phone but the cost of the calls. Then of course you have to know how and where to access the information. We all know the ABC broadcasts news and weather on the hour every hour and emergency warnings more frequently it is reliable and we trust it.

I trust the ABC board are happy to take responsibility for this ill informed decision, long may they sleep easily.

Please reconsider.

Vena Oliver
Northern Territory.