

Subject: ABC Programming Decisions
Date: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 4:39:54 PM

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and
Communications, PO Box 6100,
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into recent ABC programming decisions

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to your Committee on this matter.

I am a lifelong ABC listener & viewer. I have on a few occasions placed comments on the ABC website regarding actions which I regard as a means of softening-up public opinion in readiness for privatisation of the ABC. I particularly objected to the use of long station breaks to advertise ABC products and forthcoming shows with great frequency. I have also written about the need to appoint an ABC staff member to the ABC Board which is an electoral promise of the ALP government which has been dumped. Such an appointment could give the Board current & realistic information on the likely impact of their decision making and guidance to the General Manager.

The recent actions by the ABC show an adherence to typical MBA solutions to everything : privatise and out-source; where cost cutting is paramount and quality devalued. The closure of its Natural History Unit and outsourcing TV documentaries & drama has robbed Australians of innovative work which was intellectually stimulating and represented Australian cultural values which is the ABC's true role.

I understand the ABC plans to dispense with The New Inventors & Collectors and Art Nation, the only TV arts show, disbanding the TV Arts Unit. No doubt these programmes will be replaced by anodyne

work from companies that churn out material for commercial
broadcasters or more crap from the BBC.

It is time to stop the management-speak and concentrate on
originality and quality.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Pederick