

Subject: ABC
Date: Friday, 9 September 2011

Good afternoon,

I wish to comment on the status of the ABC and the enquiry into its activities in the future.

I am extremely concerned about the future of the ABC and make the following comments -

I feel it is absolutely essential for Australia to have an independent and adequately publicly funded National Broadcaster.

The ABC should be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas.

The ABC should not be significantly dependent on outsourced programming.

The ABC should be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online.

The ABC should be a totally public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings. We need a broadcaster that is driven by considerations of quality rather than by how popular it is perceived to be.

The ABC should be a broadcaster that is differentiated from free to air commercial channels and should maintain its traditional excellency in its programmes and in its quality journalism.

The ABC should remain easily distinguishable from other broadcasters and ensure that it is never beholden to sponsors of any sort who can seek to influence it.

The ABC needs to be an independent voice in Australia, regardless of which political party is in power. I believe that it is in the interest of all political parties to ensure the survival of the ABC as a truly independent source of information. All parties at some time need an independent

voice to counterbalance the powerful voices emanating from the government of the day.

Alan McNaughton