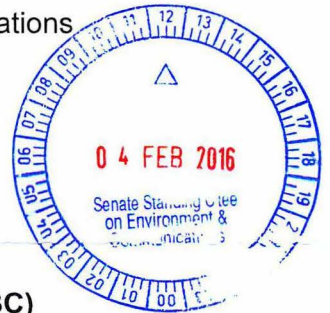




PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE
ENQUIRIES

28 January, 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senate Standing Committee,

RE: AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION (ABC)

Central Goldfields Shire Council is aware that on 1 December, 2015 Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie introduced a Private Senator's Bill (Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment (Rural and Regional Advocacy) Bill 2015) in the Senate to refer the workings of the ABC in regional areas to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiring and reporting.

Council considered this matter at its Ordinary Meeting of 27 January, 2016 where it resolved to support Senator McKenzie's actions in introducing the Bill. In doing so Council made the following points:

- rural and regional areas need an independent, public broadcaster
- rural and regional areas rely on the ABC for information, and particularly emergency management information,
- it is important that news/information is relevant i.e. that it is 'from and to' the local community (this also assists with retention of local jobs).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Mark W. Johnston
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER