


Wednesday 24th April 2013

	Submission No. 07 (ABC Melbourne) Date: 24/04/13
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Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Email: pwc@aph.gov.au

**Submission re: Proposed ABC Melbourne New Office and Studio Accommodation Project
102 – 118 Sturt Street Southbank:
Melbourne Accommodation Project**

Friends of the ABC (FABC) is the major community organisation representing the public's interest in its national independent broadcaster.

We wish to inform you of FABC's strong support for the ABC's proposal to extend its Victorian Southbank facility, which will replace its existing Ripponlea television operations.

Friends of the ABC submits that:

- The ABC's existing facilities at Ripponlea are aged and inadequate for the operations of a modern public broadcaster.
- ABC facilities in Melbourne need to be upgraded and improved if the ABC is to fulfil its responsibilities as a truly national broadcaster which reflects the interests of Australians in all states and territories.
- Common sense suggests that it would be more efficient and effective for all of ABC Victoria's metropolitan and national operations to be located in a single place, and particularly as media convergence is resulting in content frequently being developed and adapted for more than a single media delivery platform.
- Creativity is enhanced by the informal personal interaction, exchange of information and ideas that result when people work in close physical proximity to each other.
- The location of television studio facilities at Southbank, which is nearer to Melbourne city, would provide better access for visitors to all parts of the ABC in Melbourne, and for the community to view and participate in the production of ABC programs.

As a producer and provider of independent information and content that maintains our local culture, the ABC plays a vital role in the life of the country. Its prominent presence has become critical as the result of Australia's dangerously high level of media ownership concentration and the failure of the business model which supported the commercial media.

FABC requests the favourable consideration and support of the Committee for the ABC's Melbourne Accommodation Project proposal.

Glenys Stradijot
Executive Officer

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