



House of Representatives Committee:
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Submission via email to pwc@aph.gov.au

Friday, 12 April 2012

Submission No. 03

(ABC Melbourne)

Date: 12/04/13

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Re: AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (ABC) MELBOURNE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

I write in support for the proposed Melbourne Accommodation Project for the ABC. This is a vital investment in the future of public broadcasting at a time of significant structural and technological change.

As the director of a regionally-focused organisation with a Melbourne base, I can well understand the ABC's need to centralise its operations. Regional Arts Victoria inspires art across the state. Through creative facilitation, touring, education, specialised resources and advocacy, we develop and sustain creative communities and artistic practice all over Victoria. We're an independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation working in long-term partnerships with every level of government, fostering contemporary and innovative regional cultural practice across five decades. We have four regionally-based staff, 17 Melbourne-based staff and some 500 members across the state. After several decades of suburban location, Regional Arts Victoria has recently moved to Lt Bourke St Melbourne, and already we have had more regional members and colleagues visit us than we would normally experience across an entire year. In our state, all roads lead to Melbourne, making Melbourne the easiest place for regional Victorians to access by road or public transport.

Consolidating the ABC's Melbourne operations in Southbank is also a wise investment in inner-Melbourne place-making. The ABC's existing building in the heart of the Southbank arts precinct is a significant community and cultural presence in the capital city of Australia's state of the arts. The proposed development will expand this presence, creating a building of architectural and environmental significance that will reset the standard for the precinct's next steps. Having participated in several consultations for the development of the arts precinct, I am thrilled at the prospect of so valued and respected a national institution as the ABC becoming the precinct's focal place.

The proposed new building will foster accessibility, creativity and collaboration across departmental areas, in turn leading to new innovations. Having visited the Gordon St premises on several occasions, I am acutely aware of its practical limitations and workplace safety concerns. An inspiring and efficient workplace will stimulate the ABC's expert staff, inspiring all Australians with the new work that emerges.

I strongly support this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further queries.

Sincerely,

ESTHER ANATOLITIS
Director
Regional Arts Victoria