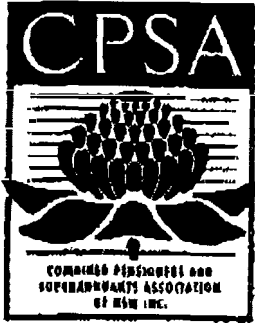


TO: CTA COMMITTEE

**COMBINED PENSIONER & SUPERANNUANTS****ASSOCIATION of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc.****BELLINGEN BRANCH**

SECRETARY - MAX FRANCIS
14 WILLIAM ST.
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House of Representatives Standing
 Committee on Communications,
 Transport and the Arts

Submission No: 285

Date Received: 19/3/01

Secretary:

20th February 2001

Mr Paul Neville.
 Coalition Back Bench Communications Committee.
 Parliament House.
 Canberra.

Dear Mr Nehl,

At their meeting on 20th February the members of the Bellingen Branch passed a motion expressing their protest at the continued downgrading of the ABC.

As senior members of community the members have relied on the ABC over many years as the major source of accurate information as to local, national and international news and to advancements in the community.

During the local flood earlier this month the ABC at Kempsey was a main source of news as to flood conditions in the area. We have also found it is a way of getting information as to local events to our community.

Coverage of the Bellingen area could be improved as there are areas where reception is very variable on the AM band. Many older receivers do not have a FM capability and listeners cannot receive stations that carry local news that have moved from AM to FM.

Finally it is felt that the provision of an unbiased national broadcaster is a necessary part of communications as many stations that were local are now part of commercial networks and have no real local content as the studios are at a distance from our area and provide up to date information on local disasters.

The way that the ABC is treated will have an influence on the way in which some of our members vote at the upcoming Federal Election.

Yours faithfully,
 CPSA.
 Bellingen Branch.

per Max Francis (Max Francis)
 Secretary.