

**FAX HEADER**

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To: THE SECRETARY ..... Fax No (02) 6277 2067  
House Communications Committee

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SUBMISSION

RADIO SERVICES IN REGIONAL  
AND RURAL AUSTRALIA -

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts	
Submission No:	163
Date Received:	27/10/00
Secretary:	Janet Holmes

1.

Once again we are asked to man the Barricades to defend the A.B.C. in another Federal Government Inquiry. WHY?

According to the Minister for Communications, in a letter written to me, dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2000, and I quote "The A.B.C. is one of Australia's primary cultural institutions with a very significant and valued role to play in Australian life. The Government is committed to ensuring that the A.B.C. remains an independent national broadcaster delivering quality programming to audiences as efficiently as possible. End of quote.

This in reply to a letter quoting from "The Australian 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 with the headline "7.30 REPORT AT RISK IN A.B.C. PURGE" by Amanda Trede. Also this article states: "In recent meetings with executives, Mr. Shier has indicated he is keen to run a more Commercial, Rate driven A.B.C." Didn't anybody tell ~~Mr~~ Shier that, that is not what a National Public Broadcaster either does or, by its Charter is supposed to do!!

Like everything else Australian - Australian Government, are ensuring that Our A.B.C. becomes a nothing, and that all of us just swallow every bit of rubbish, that they like to import for us to either listen to or watch.

The effectiveness of the A.B.C. is its ability to be a unifying element in the cultural diversity that is the

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Australian population. This is particularly well demonstrated in the Sunday morning radio programme "Australia All Over". While travelling throughout many areas of Australia, as I regularly do, a majority of people either listen to the programme or know all about it. I recommend listening to the show in the "Go Go Bull Paddock" Breakfast Room at the Fitzroy River Lodge, while enjoying a well cooked breakfast

A G.B. in-hair poll shows that 85% of respondents support maintenance or increase in funding the A.B.C

Without in any way reducing the A.B.C. unifying ability, it is imperative that the A.B.C. continues its Regional activities. These are well developed in the medium of radio, but must be further developed in the T.V. area. It is very important that regional areas have their "own" programmes as well as those which are broadcast State or Nation Wide.

It is not the function of the A.B.C. to compete with the Commercial sector of the media. In a great many areas it carries programmes which would be of no interest to Commercial stations - for example "hand here". A major interest programme in Regional and Rural areas, because of its important content.

The A.B.C. carries independent news and current affairs services which are accurate, impartial and comprehensive. High quality information & entertainment

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services which contribute to a sense of national identity. Services which fulfil the needs of Rural and Remote Communities, children and other significant groups, not well served by other broadcasting services. This is the core of the A.B.C.'s Charter.

There is no question that the major activities, especially news and Current Affairs services, must REMAIN INDEPENDENT - not ~~Reliant~~ Reliant on Advertising OR Sponsorship.

It is recommended that the A.B.C. does MORE cross promotion of its services in Auk its other sections.

By its Charter the A.B.C. must remain independent. The Board in its turn is there to fight FOR THE A.B.C. not to kow tow to Governments.

Independence means: Freedom from dependence upon others,  
such as Governments OR financial support.

The Public pays the TAXES and have asked the Governments of the day to properly fund the A.B.C. Governments are there to SERVE the people NOT TO DICTATE TO THE PEOPLE.