

25 May 2005



ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

The Secretary
Joint Parliamentary Committee on ASIO, ASIS & DSD
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2000

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Dear Secretary

The ABC is pleased to forward this letter in response to the JPC's review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of Division 3 Part III of the *Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation Act 1979*, and the amendments made by the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2003*.

In December 2003, the ABC co-signed a submission with other major media organisations opposing key provisions of the ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [No. 2], (copy attached). No substantive amendments in response to our concerns were made to the Bill as the legislation was finalised.

The ABC's views, as set out in that submission, have not changed since the legislation was enacted.

In relation to the sunset clause in the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act* at Section 34Y – Cessation of Effect of Division - the ABC recommends that the Government maintains this clause which would mean that the Division will cease to have effect on 23 July 2006.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY CRAWFORD
Director Strategy & Communications