

Secretary:.....

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND
THE ARTS
the Committee secretary:

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IN my opinion country and regional listeners rely heavily on the ABC for many reasons, the main one being that the commercial services don't come within a country mile of matching the ABC. Anyone living outside metropolitan areas would have to agree with me.

For instance, the region in which I live (Manning/Forster-Tuncurry, Buladelah and Gloucester) is served by two commercial stations, which rely mainly on a mixture of 'Golden Oldies' and relayed talkback shows. On the other hand, the ABC provides an invaluable service of FM classic, Radio National, regional radio and Triple JJJ. These four ABC stations entertain, inform, educate and provide balanced newcasts and analysis; in the case of newcasts, the time allocated extends well beyond what the commercial stations are providing. Of course the ABC radio services can be improved-for that matter anything can- but threats of further cuts to the ABC can only be judged with grave concern, especially by country dwellers. Having been in the commercial media for more than 35 years I believe the ABC more than matches its commercial opponents across the the entire spectrum of radio and television.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Hay

October 20, 2000

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