

To the Committee for Inquiry into the Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Amendment Bill 2006,

I feel strongly about supporting an independent ABC. I believe that the ability of the ABC to continue to deliver unbiased news reports would be severely hampered by the abolishment of the staff-elected Director. I trust the ethics of the ABC staff-elected Director far more than any Government sanctioned or nominated Director. There has been far too much pressure placed upon the ABC, of late, to favour the Government in it's news reports. This was particularly evident following Australia's involvement in the Iraq "Weapons of Mass Destruction" debacle.

During the Iraq invasion I felt that the only truly objective reports I received were provided by the ABC. This was later proven to me beyond doubt when Rupert Murdoch stated at a News Ltd. Annual General Meeting that ALL his newspapers supported the Bush administration's foreign policy. This does not represent freedom of the press. This is not conducive to open, informed debate. This does not assist the development of democratic societies either here in Australia or anywhere else on the planet. In fact it is the negation of those very same principals which we now claim to be fighting for in Iraq.

Let us ensure that the grim fate of the FOX editorials does not befall our ABC. Let the staff appoint a Director to represent the interests of a free ABC not the interests of the ABC staff.

David Holden