

10 April 2006



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Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications,
IT and the Arts Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2006 inviting a submission from the ABC to the Committee's Inquiry into the ABC Amendment Bill 2006.

In response to the Government's announcement on 24 March 2006 that it intended to amend the ABC Act to remove the position of Staff Elected Director, the Chairman of the ABC, Mr Donald McDonald AO, made the following comments:

The ABC operates in accordance with legislation set by the Parliament and amendments to the ABC Act are a matter for the Government and ultimately the Parliament.

I have worked with three Staff-Elected Directors and each has sought to make a contribution to the ABC Board. Inevitably there has been a tension between the expectations placed by others on their role and their established duties as directors of a corporation.

Staff issues will not be neglected in the absence of a staff-elected director. The interests of staff and our audiences will continue to be among the main concerns of the ABC Board.

The independence of the ABC is secured by the legislation which will continue to guide the Board in the discharge of its duties.

I believe these comments are relevant to your Committee's inquiry. As Acting Managing Director I note that the Managing Director is the key conduit to the Board for staffing and all other management matters and this is unchanged by the proposed amendment.

Yours sincerely

Murray Green
Acting Managing Director