

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication  
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Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

I write to support the restoration of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) Shortwave transmission services to not only the Northern Territory, but also to the outback areas of South Australia and Queensland, via the enactment of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment (Restoring Shortwave Radio) Bill 2017.

As a frequent traveller to and around the Australian Outback it has been my custom to keep informed on current domestic affairs through listening to the ABC via my mobile HF radio system. Whilst it has been important to me, I believe that this service has been ever so more important to outback station residents but also in playing a leadership role internationally in the Asia Pacific region. To potential domestic listeners, I would imagine that presuming that they all can do so via satellite is a gross presumption and many may wish to listen whilst away from their homesteads in mustering camps.

I note that the new Chairman of the ABC, Mr Justin Milne, is quoted as saying "The ABC is owned by the people of Australia, it's almost entirely a taxpayer-funded service". "The audience are the people we must not be independent from – they are our shareholders and that's to whom we owe our allegiance". Also, "I'm sure that the ABC wants to drive a line straight down the middle of Australia and provide all Australians with a news service they can trust". Further, as the cost of \$1.9 million of the service, as a proportion of the total ABC budget of \$1.2 Billion, represents a miniscule 0.16%, I cannot see the saving making much difference to the Corporations cost structure. Perhaps one of the Departments of Regional Development and/or Communications, Resources and Northern Australia or International Development and the Pacific could provide a helping hand to the ABC !!

Finally, Whilst the Outback population of the Northern Territory might be the potential listeners I ask that all three of the ABC Shortwave transmitters i.e. Katherine, Tennent Creek and Roe Creek be included in the reinstatement program i.e. to provide the service promised by, Mr Justine Milne.

W Andrew Miller, 14th April 2017