

30 August 2011.

Dear Senate Inquiry Committee into recent ABC programming decisions,

It is with great concern that the cutting of 'Art Nation' may be considered by your committee.

This flagship arts program is my only source of information on the arts that gives a national perspective. Knowledge of what is happening in each region throughout Australia is important to my sense of cultural connectedness.

It will be a loss of big-picture thinking if the program content becomes Sydney-centric or produced through commercial production houses.

What makes Art Nation an important source of information (and archival footage) is the excellent quality of production from the ABC Arts Programming Unit.

Whenever budget constraints are considered the arts invariably are the first to be targeted. This approach makes our nation shallower and poorer in our cultural heritage.