

RE: CLOSURE OF WIN TV LOCAL NEWS BROADCAST

Please find attached a small number of signed petitions from local residents that we have gathered from just one Coffee Shop, Plants On Sturt, Sturt Street, Mount Gambier. This number could be seriously exaggerated if we were to put the petitions out to all areas in Mount Gambier and the surrounding districts.

The petition regards the decision to stop broadcasting of local news by Win TV for the South East of South Australia, even though Win TV is broadcast out of their Mount Gambier based Station.

We write this letter, which we know you are very aware of, regarding the media blackout that now exists in the South East. Thousands of people in the South East area will be in a media blackout from Friday to Tuesday now that the news program has been cancelled. The Border Watch (Mount Gambier) and other local town newspapers do not publish newspapers every day of the week. The Border Watch does not publish on Monday's which means that besides the local radio stations, there is a black out of media from Friday's to Tuesday.

We are sure that you are also aware that besides directly affecting the elderly (a large population in Mount Gambier and surrounding districts), schools, local sporting organisation, government (including yourself), non government identities plus numerous other associations will now be restricted in promoting themselves and others to this area affected by Win TV news broadcast areas.

- ★ Our concerns include the exclusion of many elderly people severely distressed, especially those who are isolated and unable to get to their local shops or afford delivery of the local newspapers.
- ★ The lack of consultation in regards to the South East public.
- ★ The now obvious local advertisements now missing, which promote local advertising (now receiving adverts mainly regarding the Murray Mallee and surrounding districts) which you would understand is isolating also.
- ★ Lack of encouragement for local businesses/charities and self support groups.

We the Anxiety Disorders Association South East (ADASE) deal first hand with people and their major anxieties and depressions, which arise from all situations that are affecting our South East and surrounding residents.

We thank you for giving us your time to read this letter and we are also very aware also that you will be unidated with numerous requests from other concerned residents and of the recent march Protest held in Mount Gambier at short notice, with small number attending due to media blackout which would have in the past notified them of the march.

We seriously ask that you take up this challenge and represent those that cannot represent themselves, Stand up for those that cannot stand up for themselves and speak for those that cannot speak themselves.

We look forward to hearing from you directly as well as now through the restricted local news via newspapers and radio.

Kind regards
Helen Williams

CEO ADASE.



WE WANT TELEVISION NEWS BACK: Troy Bell (back left), Mel Foulds, Phil Reed, John Buetti (middle left), Joan Lockwood, Patricia Considine, Thomas Considine (front left), Ashley Foulds and Lawrence Considine call for the return of South East television news services at the rally in Mount Gambier on Saturday.

Picture: JULIA PROSPERI-PORTA

TV cutbacks outrage

Residents hit street to demand news service return



JULIA PROSPERI-PORTA
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LIMESTONE Coast residents called for "justice for the South East" when they rallied on Saturday against the scrapping of WIN Television's South East news bulletin.

About 30 people attended the protest at Vansittart Park before marching down to the Main Corner at 10.30am.

"We're the second biggest city outside Adelaide and we deserve more respect - we've got our kids future to think of, we've got to stand up and say enough is enough," rally organiser Joan Lockwood said.

Mount Gambier mayor Steve Perryman, who spoke at the rally, encouraged residents to "put pen to paper".

"This type of support that's been

shown here today can assist and it's fantastic to see you all here today," he said.

"But we need to convert it into black and white.

"You need to put pen to paper and lift the phone and ring the office of both senator Nick Xenophon and

It really is another knock to the confidence of the region in the reduction in services

Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier
Troy Bell

senator Simon Birmingham and let them know you are right behind the push to have this situation addressed and get our local news service back.

"In the coming weeks and months we might see WIN TV forced to

return their news service in South Australia."

Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier at the 2014 state election Troy Bell described WIN TV's decision to cut its South East news bulletin as a "tragedy".

"It really is another knock to the confidence of the region in the reduction in services," he said.

"Many people like seeing local content in a visual form, whether that's sporting events or their own children on TV, as well as keeping up to date with what's going on in their local area.

"A fair bit of the state's growth and profits comes from regional areas, but there seems to be very little investment back into regional areas.

"Days like today are very important to highlight that we are not going to be taken for granted - it's important that members of the community make a stand against services being withdrawn from our region."