

To: Committee, EC (SEN)
Subject: Fwd: ABC TV production in Tasmania

Friends of the ABC

NSW Central Coast Branch

Environment and Communications References Committee,
Australian Parliament - Senate,
Canberra.

Inquiry into closure of TV Production Unit in Tasmania.

We have complained about this closure to the ABC earlier and received an explanation which is shown below. Since then the Senate has considered the matter and we have noted the contents of the full motion passed on 21st November, 2012. The Branch wants to inform your Committee that it fully endorses the tri-partisan motion that was passed then. There is nothing further that we can add to the concerns expressed there on this particular subject. The maintenance of regional diversity by the Public Broadcaster we regard as a very important role of the ABC. The decision has to be reversed in our opinion. If there is not enough money the budget of the ABC has to be increased or savings achieved elsewhere.

Your sincerely,

Klaas Woldring, Ph. D.
Co-convenor,
Friends of the ABC,
NSW Central Coast Branch

Begin forwarded message:

From: Klaas Woldring
Subject: Re: ABC TV production in Tasmania
Date: 17 January 2013 3:28:10 PM AEDT
To: ABC Corporate_Affairs13 <Corporate_Affairs13.ABC@abc.net.au>

Friends of the ABC

NSW Central Coast Branch

Dear Denise Musto,

The Central Coast Branch of the Friends of the ABC has considered your response following our expressions of concern about the closure of the TV Production Unit in Tasmania. I believe that our position was communicated prior to the Senate Inquiry which concluded on 21st November. This Inquiry ended with a tri-partisan Senate motion that was passed unanimously condemning the closure of the Unit.

The Senate also called on Mr. Scott to reverse the decision and reinstate the local TV production unit as you will be aware.

The Branch Committee has asked me to fully endorse the motion by the Senate Committee. We will send this endorsement to the Environment and Communications Committee Inquiry - deadline 18th January.

Yours sincerely,

Klaas Woldring, Ph. D.
Co-Convenor
FABC - NSW Central Coast Branch

On 15/01/2013, at 2:16 PM, ABC Corporate_Affairs13 wrote:

Dear Mr Woldring,

Thank you for your email, which has been noted by the Board Secretariat and forwarded to me for response.

The ABC acknowledges your disappointment over the decision to initiate discussions with our staff over the future of television production in Tasmania. I can assure you that this decision was not made lightly. The economics of the media industry have changed dramatically over the past few years and the ABC has an overriding obligation to ensure its resources are used efficiently and to best further its Charter objectives.

As you may be aware, the ABC has proposed to invest \$1.5 million over three years in a production fund and will seek a matching investment from the state government. We believe that this approach will emulate the successful partnerships the ABC has put together with governments and their screen agencies in both South Australia and Western Australia. Through this initiative the ABC will support Tasmanian production and provide a greater incentive for independent producers to pitch content across a range of genres – not just lifestyle programs. ABC Tasmania will continue to be resourced to ensure that we maintain the full Anzac Day coverage and for other key events like local Q&A programs and state elections.

In an associated move, ABC News will increase its Tasmanian-based resources and content. This includes creating a new reporter position to develop Tasmanian stories for *Landline*, and to support Tasmanian stories across other news and current affairs programs.

I hope this information is of assistance and thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,
Denise Musto
A/Head, Audience and Consumer Affairs