

Sun 9/12/2012

Submission to Senate inquiry regarding ABC regional representation

Dear Senators,

I would like to express my concern about the position Tasmania will be left in should ABC Management's decision to close the Tasmanian Television Production Unit and Outside Broadcast facilities be allowed to happen.

I would like to make clear that I am employed by the ABC as a Television Producer in Tasmania but my concerns are not based on the fact that I will no longer be employed by the organisation under current plans. Instead I believe that to dismantle a centre of excellence in television production in Tasmania that took decades to build is a waste of investment, talent and facilities and renders Tasmania incapable of representation on the National Broadcaster in any other form than in news.

The career paths for young Tasmanians will become non existent in television production, and a fledgling independent State film industry will also suffer without skilled staff and equipment to be drawn from the Tasmanian ABC.

The loss of outside broadcast facilities leaves Tasmania without capability to reflect important State events ranging from State funerals or memorial services, to ANZAC day parades and local sports. The loss of the Production Unit leaves us incapable of reflecting our unique Tasmanian identity and environment to the rest of the Nation.

I believe Tasmanians are being economically rationalised out of the ABC's agenda, and to Tasmanian taxpayers this is a disservice.

Once these changes are made they will be irreversible and I hope consideration of this issue will be given in the Senate inquiry.

Jackie O'Toole