



Senate Standing Committees on Environment & Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I am appalled at the threat to ABC programming. My consumption of television and radio is almost exclusively ABC – Channels 1, 2 and 24; Classic FM, 774 and Radio National. The planned axing of *The New Inventors* and Art Nation and the ‘resting’ of *Collectors* are frighteningly symptomatic of a thinning out and dumbing down of programming.

Without this valuable cultural resource being able to maintain its independence and freedom, this country would be bereft of quality information re the arts and sciences.

I expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. I want:

1. the ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
2. the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
3. a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not allow this cultural vandalism to proceed any further! The axing of *Talking Heads* was, to my mind, an incredibly irresponsible and reckless decision. Do not allow any further erosion of this body’s autonomy and ability to provide quality programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Julie van den Driesen