

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Dear Sir,

We are very disappointed and alarmed at the prospect that WAFL matches may not be telecast on ABC television as from the end of the 2011 season.

ABC's coverage has enhanced our personal involvement and keen interest in the WAFL over many years. For it to be discontinued, would alienate us and many others that we know of, from what has become a winter sport institution in our lives and the source of hours of entertainment.

We are metropolitan viewers who follow and support the WAFL, but we know that there are many thousands of country viewers who would lose contact with the competition which has meant so much to so many of them over so many years.

After nearly being decimated by the introduction and expansion of the national AFL competition, we have proudly watched the resurgence of our grassroots football, which has been the result of a lot of hard work from within the West Australian Football League, the clubs and the players themselves. The ABC's Saturday afternoon telecast has played a major role in this resurgence and it would be tragic to see such valuable input withdrawn.

Two and a half decades of television coverage of the WAFL cannot be replaced and if discontinued, would leave our traditional, community based game very vulnerable indeed, to a point from which it may not recover.

It is with the utmost sincerity that we appeal to the Committee to preserve a part of our lives which has become a much loved institution.

Yours sincerely,
Philip Lamb