

RE: Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee: Inquiry into the ABC's commitment to reflecting and representing regional diversity

I welcome this opportunity to comment upon two aspects of recent ABC planning and execution. The decision to downscale production in Tasmania and Western Australia is to be deplored. Australia is a large and diverse country and society, and this character needs to be reflected in the programmes made by the ABC. Every state so often has its own viewpoint upon diverse public policy issues, and it is important that a centralization of production does not lead to a Sydney and Melbourne concentration of viewpoints.

Also, many programmes can be made in each capital city, so that, for instance, radio drama can be made in Hobart and Perth without undue additional expense, and this will allow actors and crew residing in these cities to be given employment, and would better lead to a variety of programme selection.

Also, regarding the status of the ABC I also deplore the drift towards the over-concentration in the expression of right-wing and neo-conservative viewpoints in so many current programmes. Recently the announcement of a link between the human production of carbon dioxide and an increasing rate of global warming, as announced by the respected scientists of the Climate Commission, was undercut by inserting the uninformed viewpoint of a panel-beater in Alice Springs that he 'thought' that they were wrong. This is symptomatic of the strong strain of neoconservative thought, and climate-change scepticism, that is so often introduced into programmes to the detriment of public discourse (cf., <http://www.independentaustralia.net/2012/politics/abc-drums-up-appearances-for-the-ipa/>)

The obvious over-representation of Institute of Public Affairs, and Centre for Independent Studies, and Liberal Party representatives is quite at odds with the ABC's Charter to have a balanced presentation of social matters. I urge a greater presence for more liberal representatives of such organisations as Per Capita, the Centre for Policy Development, and the Australia Institute. I particularly urge representation be available to members of such groups as the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, the 350.org group, and ActNow – though these organisations concentrate on global warming issues I am sure that their spokespeople also have cogent and informed views about many other current social issues.

David Rose