

Subject: Planned cuts to production of arts, local sport, innovation and regional content (WA &SA)
Date: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 1:58:47 PM

The reason the ABC has so many 'friends' (both formal and informal) is that it provides regular, original, trustworthy content in the above areas.

Everyone understands business imperatives, but the ABC is not a business – it is a public service, and a highly valued one.

If the proposed cuts go ahead, it is likely to mean the axing of Art Nation and the ABC TV Arts unit. This will severely reduce the number of locally-made arts stories and the valuable national archives that derive from them. They also run the risk of damaging regional arts programmes at a time when the country is trying to attract people to the regions and build a sense of regional pride.

Are these cuts within the ABC Charter? – and even if they are, do they not risk severely damaging the public support the ABC has built up in the arts community and in the regions over many years?

Robert Sessions