

# What will YOU miss about OUR ABC?



- **Playschool?** Fun AND educational TV for our young children?
- **Grandstand:** Cricket commentary: the sounds of an Aussie summer?
- **The Dreamhouse:** Who else includes our WHOLE family?



- **Redfern Now:** Who else shows us with clear eyes and kindness how our first Australians are living in our cities now?
- **Countdown and Rage,** if you are a rock/pop music listener?
- **ABC Classic FM,** if Bach, Beethoven and Mozart soothe your soul? 70 years + of support for Australian orchestras, musicians and composers.
- **Trustworthy up-to-the minute reports on bushfires in our country and cities?**
- **Objective news and in-depth investigative reporting e.g. Four Corners, Lateline**
- **Civilised TV and radio WITHOUT ads?**
- And what else will YOU - and your mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, children, grandchildren - miss?

## **WILL OUR USUAL AUSSIE RESPONSE: “SHE’LL BE RIGHT, MATE!” OUR ACCEPTANCE OF TONY ABBOTT’S BROKEN PROMISE: “THERE WILL BE NO CUTS TO SBS OR THE ABC UNDER A COALITION GOVERNMENT” BE A CASE OF “YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU’VE GOT ‘TILL IT’S GONE”?**

- Tony Abbott promised us – the Australian people: “There will be no cuts to education etc. etc. etc.” **AND “There will be NO cuts to funding for the ABC.”** **BUT** we now know, apart from all the other broken promises (e.g. on education), **that the ABC will now lose \$254 million over the next five years** – together with earlier cuts the amount effectively represents **8 percent of the total ABC budget.**
- **FACT: The conservative IMF – International Monetary Fund – stated: “Australia’s most needlessly wasteful spending took place under the John Howard-led Coalition government rather than under the Whitlam, Rudd or Gillard Labor government”.** Rudd’s spending was “needed to stabilise the economy” during the GFC.
- **FACT: Australia DOES NOT HAVE A PUBLIC DEBT PROBLEM: In 2012: as % of GDP: OZ = 29.3; Switzerland = 52.4; USA = 72.4; Germany = 79.9; Canada = 84.1; France = 89.9; UK = 90; Japan = 214.3!** Cuts to our ABC are driven by ideology and Murdoch’s plan to take over our entire media landscape!
- **The ABC has already lost funding for the \$223 million Australia Network, such a brilliant example of SOFT DIPLOMACY FOR AUSTRALIA into the Asia-Pacific region.** Australian universities and the Australian economy benefitted from the students whose families said: “This is a

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civilised, safe country to send our children for a good university education.” Australia Network brought enormous kudos to Australia throughout the Asia-Pacific region, OUR REGION, playing a huge soft diplomacy and subtly democratising role through its English language and other educational programs - developed in collaboration with Australian universities e.g. AusBizAust, chat/discussion programs, brilliant Catalyst on scientific and medical innovations, and through screening of loved Australian-made drama: Janet King, A Place to Call Home, even Home and Away!

- **Rupert Murdoch, American citizen and global media tycoon, has for years pressurised successive Australian governments to take over the contract for Australia Network.**
- Murdoch evidently holds enormous sway over the Abbott Government. He was born Australian, but he and his America-based multinational corporation, News Corp, do not behave in a way that supports the dissemination of factual, objective and in-depth information that is the lifeblood of democracy. It does not matter how one votes BUT a strong democracy depends on the availability of a wide diversity of information sources and social and political points of view.
- **Pre-election Murdoch-owned Telegraph headline:**



- **Whichever way you vote, this is not objective reporting: THIS IS UNASHAMED MANIPULATION OF VOTERS IN A COUNTRY THAT RUPERT MURDOCH HAS LONG SINCE NOT CALLED HOME,** whose News Corp scandal revealed the illegal phone-tapping of a murdered British schoolgirl and of the families of British soldiers serving in Afghanistan.
- **Robert Manne, voted for years as Australia’s most admired intellectual, on Murdoch domination of our media: “The shameless actions of News Ltd are a threat to our democracy.”**
- **News Ltd owns 70 per cent of the circulation of major newspapers in Australia, including most of our local papers:** Google the lists for your city and others – you will be shocked no matter how you vote. **As a thinking Australian, doesn’t this domination of national and local media worry you?**
- Robert Manne: “It may not be so serious if [Murdoch] who has so much influence in Australia, was respected and trusted by most Australians. The opposite is ... the case. Just recently he was voted as one of the least trusted. He was placed number 97 on the Readers Digest ‘Who Do We Trust 2012’ list.”
- **And now Murdoch has declared that he wants to dominate our internet as well! How can Murdoch’s sensationalist reporting and self-promoting propaganda compare with the informed, objective and in-depth ABC online?**
- The sheer democracy of the programming of the ABC. There is a station or program for every Australian – young and old; liking jazz or classical or opera or pop or rock; documentaries or comedies generally of such a high standard that many are sold and become hits overseas.
- **If you also love YOUR ABC, why not let your local MP know how much you love it?** Go to [www.fabcnsw.org.au](http://www.fabcnsw.org.au) click on ‘Be Active:’ select: ‘Who Can I Write To?’ to find your own MP and / or the Minister for Communications.

*Author: Sue Lubbers, NSW academic and ABC friend*