

April 16th 2006,

The General Manager,
Digital Broadcasting and Spectrum Management,
Department of Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts,

To the General Manager,

I am writing as I have concerns about the future diversity of the media in Australia. Many critics consider the removal of cross media ownership laws will not provide a greater level of media diversity but will in fact lead to media control and ownership by maybe one or two media companies. This would obviously not be in the interests of entertainment, journalism nor Australian culture. One would also wonder if a 'free press', [as we have historically known it] could exist under such narrow conditions and why a government would want to limit viable competition?

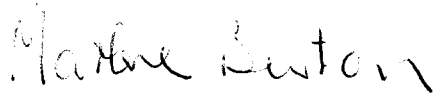
The A.B.C. should remain independent and adequately funded as a national broadcaster. Restrictions on the types of programs the A.B.C. and S.B.S. can multichannel should be lifted.

There should be no reduction in the number of media outlets in metropolitan and country areas in Australia.

Also the issuing of media licences should remain with a public authority subject to transparent public scrutiny and independent of government. This notion is a prerequisite that underpins the meaning of what it is to be a democracy.

Personally I do not want this country becoming no more than a clone to [often] mediocre American mainstream values. I want a variety in journalistic viewpoints and diversity in entertainment programs; something for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Marlene Burton,