

## **Response to the Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific**

I regularly travel through remote Central and Northern Australia for work and leisure. The current advertising stating that ABC services are available everywhere is not correct as most of the areas I visit are not covered by FM or AM radio broadcast. They also do not have mobile phone service to allow access to ABC broadcasting via the internet and as I am mobile I do not have access to internet via satellite.

Previously, whilst travelling, I relied upon the shortwave service to keep up to date with news and weather as well as providing entertainment such as listening to the footy through ABC Grandstand. The service had been instrumental in ensuring my safety on at least one occasion where I was travelling in Central Australia and learnt of a large weather event heading towards my location. The advice allowed me to adjust my trip plan to ensure I would not be caught and possibly stranded.

Through speaking to fellow travellers and as a four wheel drive club member I am aware of a large number of people the cessation of the service has adversely affected as like me they are no longer able to access news, weather and entertainment until they get back into the range of modern communication services.

The end of the shortwave broadcast was I believe a great disservice to the people who live, work and travel in remote and outback Australia.