
Tom Murray
Macquarie University

My name is Tom Murray and I have been writing, producing and directing Australian stories for more than two decades. Watching the contraction of the Australian screen industry over this time, and the concurrent lack of outlets for Australian stories is a cause of great concern to me.

Having Australian stories on Australian screens is a crucial form of collective investment in the short and long-term goal of realising our national hopes and dreams, and speaking to our national fears and anxieties. Through this process we come to know ourselves, and be a better and more self-aware country.

It is this kind of collective self-awareness that becomes crucial in times of national challenge: like we have seen with the bush-fires and with COVID-19. But the collective access to Australian stories is equally crucial in times of non-crisis: we always need to laugh, to cry, to reflect, to swell with anger or pride or love, and to be informed enough to act.

We need significant changes to the current model that will provide incentives and obligations to ensure that all commercial content providers — including streaming services — invest in new Australian content, and ensure that the ABC and SBS receive funding for children's programming and funding for Australian stories that include drama and documentaries.

My career has only been possible through the support of publicly funded programs and initiatives designed to ensure Australian stories are told. These include ABC's "Social History Unit", Film Australia's "National Interest Program" and SBS TV's mandate to tell diverse Australian stories.

I strongly urge that these significant changes are implemented in order to avoid a

cultural drought that will devastate the Australian community in both subtle and tangible ways for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Tom Murray

I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No

I wish for my submission to be private: No

Supporting documents:

This submission has been lodged via the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance](#).