



**June 18<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

**SUBMISSION FROM WANTOK MUSIK FOUNDATION.**

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**REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING SERVICES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC.**

**Australian Government: Department of Communication and the Arts.**

The Wantok Musik Foundation has for twenty years worked with musicians from all around Melanesia. We record cultural artists and perform concerts both in regional capitals such as Port Moresby, Honiara, Port Vila, Rabaul as well as in more remote locations such as recent projects in Pidia, Bougainville, and Gaua, Ureparapara and Motalava in Torba Province Vanuatu. In many of these more remote locations the need for short wave radio service to be able to keep in touch with developments is vital.

News, community service, health reports and sports programmes are keenly sought-after ways of disseminating information and for people to keep up with important developments in the world at large. Even more so for the people who live in these locations. Mobile networks often do not exist. The Short-Wave service is a great example of soft diplomacy, something Australia does well and also needs to be seen continuing to be doing well.

The Wantok Musik Foundation strongly believe that the axing was a pointless and ill-considered exercise. From an economic perspective it appears that axing the service was not a great money saving mechanism, instead it simply removed a vital service for minimal gain. From someone who has spent more time than most in this part of the world, I can guarantee its value on the ground in Melanesia and strongly support the re-introduction of this important link with our Pacific neighbours.

  
David Bridie. Artistic Director: Wantok Musik Foundation.