



## PRIME MINISTER

### SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER REGIONAL TELEVISION AUSTRALIA - SYDNEY, 5 JUNE 1984

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WELCOME. I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU TONIGHT.

JUST OVER TWO MONTHS AGO I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PRESENTING THE GOLD LOGIE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF TELEVISION PEOPLE FROM THE CREATIVE SECTOR OF THE INDUSTRY.

THIS EVENING I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO AN AUDIENCE WHICH REPRESENTS A MAJOR SEGMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY.

AT THE LOGIES I DREW ATTENTION TO THE CONSIDERABLE ADVANCES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN RECENT YEARS IN AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMMING. IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT OF THE MORE THAN \$300 MILLION COMMERCIAL TELEVISION SPENT ON PROGRAMMING IN 1981/82 THAT NEARLY 80 PER CENT WAS DIRECTED TO AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTIONS. WE CAN ALL DRAW SOME SATISFACTION FROM THE FACT THAT LAST FINANCIAL YEAR MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE PRIME TIME PROGRAMS WERE AUSTRALIAN MADE.

PERHAPS EVEN MORE EXCITING IS THAT OVERSEAS SALES OF AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS ARE GROWING STEADILY AS FOREIGN BUYERS COME TO RECOGNISE THE QUALITY OF OUR LOCAL PRODUCT.

REGIONAL TELEVISION AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LOCAL PRODUCTION CAPACITIES AND TALENT - AND I AM AWARE OF ONE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE DOCUMENTARY SERIES THE PRIME MINISTERS - FOR WHICH YOU ALSO DESERVE RECOGNITION.

TO DESCRIBE TELEVISION AS OUR MOST POWERFUL MEDIUM HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A CLICHE.

BUT THAT SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH OF THIS OBSERVATION.

I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE THAT MY PERIOD OF PUBLIC LIFE HAS COINCIDED WITH THE GROWTH IN INFLUENCE OF YOUR MEDIUM. TELEVISION OFFERS ALL OF US WHO HAVE INFORMATION OR VIEWS WE WISH TO PRESENT TO THE PUBLIC A UNIQUE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH TO COMMUNICATE OUR CASE.

I RECOGNISE THAT IN THE REGIONAL CITIES AND IN PROVINCIAL AUSTRALIA YOU PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE IN DISSEMINATING INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS AND COMMENT. IT IS A ROLE THAT CARRIES WITH IT A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WHICH I KNOW YOU ACCEPT IN YOUR APPROACH TO THIS TASK.

I NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT YOU PRESENT THE SPECIAL AUDIENCE THAT REGIONAL TELEVISION CAPTURES AS THE 'FRESH AUSTRALIANS'.

THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE WINNING OFFICE HAS MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE ITS POLICIES TO THE PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE THE MAJOR METROPOLITAN CITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO, AND I BELIEVE THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT I HAVE VISITED MORE THAN 20 REGIONAL CENTRES IN THE LAST 15 MONTHS, ENSURED THAT IT HAS BEEN ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THOSE OF YOU LIVING IN NON-METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIA.

IN MY OWN EXPERIENCE I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED NOT JUST WITH THE COMMITMENT OF REGIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS TO REPORT ON POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES BUT ALSO WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR COVERAGE OF THESE ISSUES. I KNOW THAT MANY STATIONS PROVIDE EQUALLY HIGH QUALITY CURRENT AFFAIRS, CHILDRENS', VARIETY, COMMUNITY INTEREST AND LOCAL SPORT PROGRAMS. A FURTHER MEASURE OF YOUR COMMITMENT IN THIS AREA IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A REGIONAL TELEVISION AUSTRALIA JOURNALIST IN THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY TO MONITOR AND TO REPORT ON ISSUES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOUR VIEWERS.

BEFORE DISCUSSING SOME OF THE SPECIFIC INDUSTRY ISSUES YOU HAVE INDICATED THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO ADDRESS, I AM SURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR BRIEFLY THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OF THE MEDIUM TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE ECONOMY.

YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE PRIORITY THE GOVERNMENT HAS ATTACHED TO A SUSTAINED, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE CONSEQUENT IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING STANDARDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU HAVE SEEN AT FIRST HAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE RURAL ECONOMY WITH THE BREAKING OF THE DROUGHT. I WON'T CLAIM FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS!

OTHER FACTORS HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF THE NON-FARM ECONOMY. BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE PRICES AND INCOMES ACCORD, HAVE ALSO HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN RECENT MONTHS ON GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT

AND UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, THE GENERAL LEVELS OF CORPORATE PROFITABILITY AND PROSPECTIVE LOWER WAGE COSTS. THERE ARE ALSO SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF A PICK-UP IN BUSINESS INVESTMENT.

IN THE FORTHCOMING BUDGET WE WILL BE BRINGING IN A LOWER DEFICIT THAN FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THUS FURTHER REDUCING PRESSURES ON THE FINANCIAL MARKETS.

THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF THE RECOVERY IS REFLECTED IN THE LATEST NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY:

- NON-FARM PRODUCT IN THE MARCH 1984 QUARTER GREW BY 2.4% - A REMARKABLE 7.6% ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE JUNE QUARTER 1983 (THE TROUGH OF THE RECESSION).
- FARM PRODUCT FOR THE MARCH 1984 QUARTER WAS 40% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.
- ACTIVITY IN THE HOUSING SECTOR CONTINUED TO BE VERY STRONG, REGISTERING A 12% GROWTH IN THE QUARTER.
- EXPORTS ALSO GREW IMPRESSIVELY - BY 4% IN THE QUARTER - PARTLY A REFLECTION OF STRONG GROWTH IN RURAL EXPORTS.
- THERE WAS ALSO DURING THE MARCH QUARTER CONTINUED GROWTH IN PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (0.7% AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE MEDICARE EFFECT) AND STRONG GROWTH IN PRIVATE FIXED INVESTMENT (NEARLY 4%).
- FINALLY, NON-FARM PROFIT SHARE ROSE BY A FURTHER 1% IN THE QUARTER TO 17.1% - RECONFIRMING A RETURN TO THE LEVELS OF THE EARLY 1970'S.

IT IS CLEAR THAT RECOVERY IS OBVIOUSLY WELL AND TRULY UNDERWAY. THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO SUSTAINING AND CARRYING FORWARD INTO THE LONG-TERM FUTURE THE VERY GOOD ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF RECENT MONTHS.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TURN TO SOME ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO YOUR INDUSTRY.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH HAVE OR WILL HAVE A MAJOR BEARING ON THE FUTURE OF STATIONS OPERATING IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK. THESE INCLUDE THE MATTERS OF SATELLITE POLICIES, SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCING, AND THE MORE GENERAL ISSUE OF REGULATION IN THE INDUSTRY.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THESE MATTERS ARE VITAL TO THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF THIS I THINK IT MAY BE HELPFUL AT THIS STAGE FOR ME TO GIVE A GENERAL INDICATION OF SOME OF THE ASSUMPTIONS THE GOVERNMENT BRINGS TO THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEVISION AND RADIO SERVICES ARE BASED UPON SEVERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY GAINS MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM NEW AND EXISTING TECHNOLOGY. THERE IS A NUMBER OF PARTICULAR PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH IN THIS AREA:

- TO MAXIMISE DIVERSITY OF CHOICE IN RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICES, SO THAT ALL AUSTRALIANS HAVE ACCESS TO AS WIDE A RANGE OF SERVICES AS POSSIBLE;
- TO ENCOURAGE AN 'AUSTRALIAN LOOK' FOR T.V. AND RADIO, BY MAINTENANCE OF AN APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN CONTENT, AND FOSTERING OF AN AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION INDUSTRY;
- TO DISCOURAGE CONCENTRATION OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF STATIONS; AND
- TO MAINTAIN THE VIABILITY OF THE BROADCASTING SYSTEM.

CONSISTENT WITH THESE PRINCIPLES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES:

- TO BRING A SIMILAR RANGE OF ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION THROUGH THE BROADCASTING SERVICES TO ALL AUSTRALIANS - ESPECIALLY THOSE CURRENTLY WITHOUT ANY OR WITH INADEQUATE SERVICES;
- TO PROVIDE BROADCASTING SERVICES RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS;
- TO DEVELOP SERVICES BASED ON SOCIAL NEEDS RATHER THAN SIMPLY UNCRITICALLY FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT; AND

IT IS WITH THESE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES IN MIND, COMBINED WITH A FLEXIBLE CONSENSUS APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DECISIONS, THAT WE HAVE SHAPED OUR POLICIES IN THE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SATELLITES WILL CLEARLY HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE BROADCASTING SYSTEM. FOR A COUNTRY AS LARGE AND AS SPARSELY SETTLED AS AUSTRALIA, THE BENEFITS OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS ARE OBVIOUS.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER - AS YOU WOULD ALL KNOW - THAT THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE AUSSAT WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD, OPEN AND SHUT CASE. THE SIMPLE EXISTENCE OF THE TECHNOLOGY WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY ITS USE. THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEENLY SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF AUSSAT WOULD NEED TO HAVE FULL REGARD FOR THE EXISTING STRUCTURE OF BROADCASTING IN THIS COUNTRY. FOR THE DECISION

TO PROCEED THE GOVERNMENT ALSO FELT THAT ITS USE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS AND BE ECONOMICALLY SOUND.

THE SATELLITE PROGRAM SERVICES INQUIRY FLOWS DIRECTLY FROM THIS DECISION. IT IS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT THE VIEWS OF ALL SECTORS, AND ESPECIALLY THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES, SHOULD BE PAID SPECIAL HEED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SYSTEMS.

THIS INQUIRY BY THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL HAS BEEN LOOKING AT TWO BROAD SETS OF ISSUES, WHICH I KNOW ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

- FIRST, WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY REGULATION GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF SATELLITE PROGRAM SERVICES; AND
- SECOND, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT COMMERCIAL TELEVISION IS PROVIDED TO THOSE 650,000 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA WHO DO NOT HAVE A SERVICE.

A CLOSELY RELATED MATTER IS THAT OF DIRECT BROADCASTING. THIS RAISES ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE HANDLED WITH PARTICULAR CARE.

I THINK YOU WOULD ALL RECOGNISE THAT HOUSEHOLDS OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF REGIONAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION ARE ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE NOT JUST THE A.B.C., BUT A WIDE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES. FOR THEM DIRECT BROADCASTING WOULD PROVIDE THE TYPES OF SERVICES THAT VIEWERS IN METROPOLITAN CITIES AND REGIONAL CENTRES ALREADY TAKE FOR GRANTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, I FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN THAT UNLIMITED DIRECT BROADCASTING TO ALL PARTS OF AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE VIABILITY OF REGIONAL STATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY ON LOCAL TELEVISION PROGRAMING.

IT WAS THIS LATTER CONSIDERATION THAT PROMPTED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS TO ANNOUNCE LATE LAST YEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AUTHORISE COMMERCIAL DIRECT BROADCASTING BY SATELLITE AT THAT TIME.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO BRING A FLEXIBLE, PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE - AN APPROACH WHICH ADEQUATELY ADDRESSES THE NEEDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THE CURRENT POSITION ON DIRECT BROADCASTING SHOULD NOT THEREFORE BE SEEN AS EITHER IRREVOCABLE OR INDEFINITE IN DURATION. ULTIMATELY WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A MEANS OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THOSE 650,000 AUSTRALIANS WITHOUT ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL SERVICES. THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM MUST INITIALLY AWAIT THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL'S REPORT.

OUR NON-METROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES ARE THE RICHER AND BETTER FOR THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY OUR REGIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH IS, THEREFORE, ONE WHICH SEEKS TO PRESERVE THE BENEFITS OF LOCAL CONTENT OF PROGRAMMING IN REGIONAL AREAS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWING FOR BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF LOCALISM, THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A REVIEW OF LOCALISM IN BROADCASTING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR JAMES OSWIN. I KNOW THAT THERE IS SOME WARINESS WITHIN REGIONAL TELEVISION AUSTRALIA THAT THIS REVIEW MAY IN SOME WAYS WORK AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF REGIONAL BROADCASTING. I WOULD SIMPLY REITERATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE BROADCASTING SERVICES RELEVANT TO LOCAL NEEDS.

THE GOVERNMENT IS STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN REGIONAL AREAS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF LOCAL CONTENT TELEVISION. IT IS, NONETHELESS, AN INESCAPABLE FACT THAT THE ECONOMICS OF TELEVISION PRODUCTION HAS BEEN THE GREATEST FACTOR - AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE - IN LIMITING THE DEGREE OF LOCAL PROGRAMING BY REGIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS.

SOME LOCAL PRODUCTIONS HAVE REFLECTED GREAT FLAIR AND INITIATIVE, AND ARE A REAL CREDIT TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE. BUT I DOUBT THAT ANY OF YOU WOULD ARGUE THAT REGIONAL PROGRAMING HAS ACHIEVED THE LEVEL OF LOCAL SERVICE WHICH THE PARLIAMENT ANTICIPATED WHEN COMMERCIAL TELEVISION WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA NEARLY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. THIS FACT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED OPENLY AND FRANKLY BY ALL CONCERNED.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT SATELLITE RELATED ISSUE IS THAT OF SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES. THE SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCE SCHEME IS ANOTHER COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A GREATER DIVERSITY OF CHOICE FOR VIEWERS IN REGIONAL AREAS. THE AIM WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THIS BE DONE WITHOUT AFFECTING THE VIABILITY OF CURRENT OPERATORS.

I AM AWARE THAT THERE IS A VIEW WITHIN THE INDUSTRY THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCE PROCEDURE SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED AND SPEEDED UP. I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, MR DUFFY VERY RECENTLY UNDERTOOK A REVIEW OF THE PROCESS TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE ANY STEPS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS. HE WAS CONVINCED THERE WERE NO PRACTICAL AND LAWFUL ALTERNATIVES, SHORT OF MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

QUITE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE MATTER OF SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES IS THE MATTER OF DEFINING SERVICE AREAS. I AM PLEASED TO

SAY THAT THIS IS GOING AHEAD SMOOTHLY, THANKS IN PART TO THE CO-OPERATION OF REGIONAL TELEVISION AUSTRALIA MEMBERS AND OTHERS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE GIVING PRIORITY TO THOSE AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT AS BEING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST BY APPLICANTS FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCE.

FINALLY THERE IS THE ISSUE OF REGULATION, AND I RECOGNISE THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF CONTINUING SENSITIVITY WITHIN YOUR INDUSTRY. LET ME ASSURE YOU THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO COMMITMENT TO REGULATION FOR THE SAKE OF REGULATION. OUR DISTINCT PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR CO-OPERATIVE APPROACHES WHICH PAY DUE REGARD TO CLEAR, ALBEIT EVOLVING, COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS.

IN THIS REGARD I AM DELIGHTED BY THE CO-OPERATION THAT IS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL NETWORK CHANNEL 10 AND THE A.B.C. OVER TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES. THIS IS NOT ONLY A REFRESHING DEVELOPMENT AND ONE THAT I WOULD HOPE WOULD BE THE NORM FROM NOW ON, BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT NEEDED IF BROADRANGING COMMUNITY INTERESTS ARE TO BE ADEQUATELY AND EFFECTIVELY PROVIDED FOR.

THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL HAS JUST RELEASED NEW CHILDREN'S AND PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN'S TELEVISION PROGRAM AND ADVERTISING STANDARDS. REVISED STANDARDS TO BE DETERMINED DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS WILL INCLUDE ADVERTISING TIME STANDARDS, RELIGIOUS PROGRAM STANDARDS, AUSTRALIAN CONTENT STANDARDS AND PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY BODIES BE CLOSELY CONSULTED IN THESE MATTERS. THIS IS PROVIDED FOR BY WELL ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

IT REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S PREFERENCE NONETHELESS, THAT THE INDUSTRY CONTINUE TO REGULATE ITSELF AS IT HAS DONE THROUGH A NUMBER OF BODIES SUCH AS FACTS, THE MEDIA COUNCIL, THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL AND THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA. IN MOST CASES SELF-REGULATION OF THIS KIND HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT AND ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES.

THERE IS NO INTRINSIC REASON WHY CO-OPERATIVE APPROACHES OF THIS KIND SHOULD NOT PREVAIL. IN THE DUAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT AND INDUSTRY SELF-REGULATION WHICH NOW APPLIES, THE DECISIONS WHICH EMERGE SEEM GENERALLY WORKABLE AND WELL BALANCED.

THE COMMUNICATIONS ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING RAPIDLY. THE TASK BEFORE ALL OF US IS TO MANAGE THAT CHANGE IN A WAY THAT ACCOMMODATES THE VARIOUS INTERESTS CONCERNED AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, PROVIDES THE SERVICES NEEDED BY THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

DECISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN WILL INEVITABLY CAUSE SOME PARTIES TO BE LESS THAN TOTALLY SATISFIED. BUT IN THE LONG-TERM I BELIEVE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM AS A WHOLE BENEFITS FROM THE STABILITY OF APPROACH ADOPTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT.

WE RELY ON THE ASSISTANCE OF ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS YOUR OWN AND I TRUST THAT THE CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT YOU HAVE SHOWN WILL CONTINUE AS, TOGETHER, WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE BROADCASTING SYSTEM FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS.

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