



# Louise Markus MP

Federal Member for Macquarie



## Working for our Local Community

Dear Mrs Redshaw,

Thank you very much for contacting me regarding the ABC.

The Government understands the significant relationship the national broadcasters have with Australians (*particularly those from rural and regional areas*), and we are committed to maintaining their quality programming and comprehensive broadcasting and digital media services.

The ABC and SBS receive \$1.4 billion of taxpayers' funds each year. All Government agencies, providing a service to the community, have a duty to ensure taxpayers' funds are used as efficiently as possible, and the national broadcasters are no exception.

The Australian Government provides funding to the ABC and SBS to provide broadcasting and digital media services in line with the responsibilities set out in the [ABC Charter](#) and [SBS Charter](#). The public and the Government have varying levels of visibility into the costs of meeting these responsibilities. That is why the Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull MP, has directed the Department of Communications to conduct an efficiency study into both the ABC and SBS that will break down these costs and find options for more efficient delivery of services.

The study, currently underway, will focus on the day to day operational costs of running the national broadcasters. The study will not evaluate the quality of ABC and SBS programming and services, or make recommendations regarding their editorial independence. There will not be any change to either organisation's Charter.

The objective is to assist the national broadcasters to deliver their Charter responsibilities efficiently and to ensure the community receives value for money.

You can read more about the study here

[http://www.communications.gov.au/television/abc\\_and\\_sbs\\_television/abc\\_and\\_sbs\\_efficiency\\_study\\_terms\\_of\\_reference](http://www.communications.gov.au/television/abc_and_sbs_television/abc_and_sbs_efficiency_study_terms_of_reference)

As the [mid-year financial outlook](#) revealed, the Budget is in a much worse state than Labor had forecast - If left unchanged, the Commonwealth Budget would be heading to combined deficits of \$123 Billion over the next four years. That is why the Coalition is reviewing every public agency to ensure taxpayers are getting full value for money, the ABC and SBS are no exception, they have an obligation to their owners, the Australian people, to run their organisations as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

Thank you again for contracting me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Louise Markus MP**  
**Federal Member for Macquarie**