

## **Letter to Sydney Morning Herald from President Barry Redshaw**

LONG LIVE OUR NATIONAL BROADCASTERS, ABC/SBS.

I cannot believe the audacious criticism, misunderstanding and comment made by the chief executive Mr Hugh Morris of Channel 9, SMH 31/3/16. I agree that the public broadcasters have changed in my view for the better, given difficult circumstances but still maintaining unbiased informative programs of Australian content, investigative excellence and the only source to Regional, City emergencies and news across Australia.

The matter of a merger, each in their own right, should be determined without interference by their respective Boards and Management from external private and competitive interests. We do not want the experiences of other media domination as experienced in other states with biased opinion and content.

I am concerned that commercial media will promote restructuring of the public broadcasters for their own benefit. Surely this is a matter of self interest and another attempt to downsize or eliminate competition and allow commercial providers to become even more dominant. The ABC/SBS must be retained in whatever structure they decide to ensure they are well resourced, innovative and INDEPENDENT National Broadcasters as a matter of fundamental importance to our Democracy and Culture.

Barry Redshaw

Lawson