

25<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Letter to the Editor, Age & SMH



Dear Editor

Re: **The ABC's future is in doubt**

Claims that a Liberal-National party government would not privatise the ABC are not reassuring on their own. (*Sunday Age*, 25 Aug report on the IPA)

There is more than one way to skin a cat if an Abbott-led government wants to comply with the wishes of two of its major backers, the right-wing Institute of Public Affairs and Rupert Murdoch.

To date, the Coalition has not ruled out cutting the national broadcaster's scope or funds, or even charging for some of its services. Nor has it promised not to hive off any ABC activities to the likes of Murdoch's News Corp empire.

Be it up-front privatisation or erosion through the back door, the eventual outcome would be the same.

Australia would lose its most significant contributor to our local culture.

The scrutiny of major bodies that impact on our lives would be poorer.

The community would lose a politically and commercially independent source of information. And it would lose a major platform for public debate.

It would be at our peril if we allowed this to happen in a media landscape in which the influence of one major media proprietor, Rupert Murdoch, has already become so great that it is undermining our democratic processes.

Yours sincerely

Gael Barrett  
President  
Friends of the ABC (Vic)

GS: media folder