



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

16 June 2022

Ms Ita Buttrose AC OBE Chair ABC

Dear Ms Buttrose,

I write to you as President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), an organisation older than the ABC by more than two decades. We at the RHSV have been protecting the history and heritage of Victoria since 1909 and are acutely aware of the importance of Archives and Libraries.

I am writing to you out of concern for the redundancies and realignments of staff at the ABC connected with the ABC's archive/library and on-going record keeping. I have read a document by Rebecca Matthews, 'Product and Content Technology' about these changes.

I am alarmed by the following:

- It does not contain any statement of the importance of the ABC archives, the voice of the nation since 1932.
- It does not include any vision for the Archives of the ABC as part of the nation's heritage, and how it might intersect with other archives around the country.
- There is no indication of how much of the ABC's archive still needs to be digitized
- There is no recognition that many institutions around the country, including the RHSV, while digitising their collections still see the need for archivists and librarians.
- There seems little awareness of the skills and value that archivist/librarians bring to a collection and the ongoing need to keep cataloguing abreast of a world full of changing ideas and priorities.
- There is no explanation or awareness as to how 'content navigators' can successfully fulfill the role of archivist/librarians to manage collections and ensure new content is incorporated successfully into an ongoing collection.

Has the management at the ABC worked with archivist/librarians to see how they might enhance the future of the ABC's collections? If not, I urge a reconsideration of these changes.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM FAHA, FRHSV