



PO Box 1391  
North Sydney, NSW, 2059

21 January, 2024

Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services  
Pre-Budget Submissions  
Treasury, Langton Cres, Parkes ACT 2600  
Email: PreBudgetSubmissions@treasury.gov.au

Dear Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services

**Re: 2024–25 Pre-Budget Submission**

NSoS<sup>[1]</sup> appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to you. It requests that you address the funding shortfall to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in your budget deliberations. The cumulative impact of funding cuts, since 2014, continues to have devastating impacts on the ABC's capacity to provide quality public interest programs and fulfil its obligations under its Charter.

Democracies around the world are facing extraordinary threats from misinformation and disinformation from social media, commercial streaming services and media fragmentation. Democracies that have a strong, well-funded and independent public broadcaster are more resilient.

NSoS appreciates the Australian Government's commitment to the ABC with the immediate reversal of the \$83.7 million cuts and the implementation of five-year funding terms.

However, the ABC continues to be challenged and compromised by the cumulative impacts of funding cuts, especially those that began in 2014. Today the ABC currently has 10 per cent lower budget compared to 2013-2014.

NSoS asks that you restore the nearly \$1 billion cuts <sup>[2]</sup> to the ABC.

If the ABC's funding shortfall is not addressed NSoS fears dire consequences for Australia's future. Without restoring the cumulative impacts of the funding cuts, it is making it impossible for the ABC to increase the range and diversity of programs and reinstate lost services.

Australians need their ABC more than ever. It is a critical public service that must be valued and well funded. It is the bedrock of our democratic, cultural, artistic and educated society.

NSoS calls for the **restoration** of the cumulative cuts to the ABC and **additional funding** for it to fulfil its Charter in a rapidly changing world with heightened geopolitical tensions and increasing frequency of emergency climate disasters.

The case for strong and secure funding for our public broadcaster has never been more important.

Yours sincerely

Janine Kitson

Convenor

ABC Friends Northern Suburbs of Sydney (NSoS)

[1] ABC Friends Northern Suburbs of Sydney (**NSoS**) is a branch of ABC Friends NSW & ACT Inc. It is a non-partisan, not-for-profit volunteer-based organisation that aims to defend and promote the ABC because of its vital role as a pillar of Australia's democracy. NSoS is a branch of ABC Friends NSW & ACT and represents over 700 northern Sydney residents who are passionate about the importance of Australia having a strong, well funded and independent national broadcaster. NSoS covers the Federal electorates of Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield, Mackellar, Mitchell, North Sydney, and Warringah.

[2] The ABC Annual Report 2016, page 169, stated: “The 2016–17 operational revenue from Government of \$838 million represents a decrease in real funding of \$346 million or 29.2% since 1985–86 as depicted in the chart ‘ABC Operational Revenue from Government’.”