

Dear Mr Scott,

In one month, with the so called "resting" of Collectors, local ongoing TV production in Tasmania will in effect cease. We are angry and upset about the lack of information regarding the future of production in Tasmania and the lack of consultation and respect afforded to those of us whose jobs will be affected.

It is clear that the skill and expertise that has been built up over many years has been continually and systematically eroded and is now in danger of being lost completely. The range and scope of branch production has been constantly reduced along with the steady loss of staff. We fear that if this trend is allowed to continue, production apart from local sport and news will cease all together. In the past 4 years alone, production in this branch has fallen from 21 hours per year to a proposed 5 hours of a one series only Auctions program.

It should also be noted that any reduction in local production affects many more staff than those in the TV Production unit. The flow-on effect to the jobs of other highly skilled and committed employees in other Divisions such as Resources is significant.

Scant information has been forthcoming about the current idea being piloted and we are being expected to produce it on top of winding up Collectors under difficult circumstances. There seems no plan for continued production beyond the pilot - if in fact it is even commissioned. Nor does there appear to be any cohesive process to ensure the ongoing planning for a continuous production stream in this state.

We feel that the process to involve staff in the generation of ideas to replace Collectors was given little chance of success; given the dismissive reception we received the result was more than likely predetermined and that the latest 10 part (5 hour) proposal is an ad hoc and stop gap measure that betrays the commitment staff gave to the process.

We believe that we have shown how well regional production can work. We have developed highly skilled and award-winning staff and built two of the most successful national programs in Tasmania, Gardening Australia and Collectors. Our move from Gardening Australia to developing and producing yet another top national program demonstrates our adaptability, willingness and ability to provide whatever production is required. Despite this, we see no evidence of any commitment in terms of either support or resources from management to continuing significant local production.

We are proud of our record in producing high quality professional productions and wish it to continue. We call on you to share your plans for the future of Television production in Tasmania along with early details of the likely impact on staff.

ABC Production Unit Tasmania