



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### ABC, Funding

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.24 pm): I rise to speak about the ABC cutbacks and the effects that they will have on Western Queensland. From the reports that I have received—and I will table one of those from the ABC News—the pertinent points that I would like to make are that the ABC has reported 400 jobs to be lost—about 10 per cent of the ongoing workforce—300 redundancies are to take effect immediately and 10 per cent from management.

*Tabled paper:* ABC News media article, dated 25 November 2014, titled 'ABC cuts: Managing director Mark Scott announces more than 400 jobs to go' [[6577](#)].

News bulletins are to be cut from 10 to five minutes. They will cut back on the number of concerts recorded by Classic FM. NewsRadio will move out of radio and into the news division. Radio National's iconic *Bush Telegraph* will finish up at the end of 2014.

There are many aspects of the ABC I disagree with. I find Q&A very hard to stomach and their lack of objectivity I find very difficult to digest. But I do respect the independence of the ABC. Far be it from me to judge. It is a wonderful institution out in Western Queensland. They provide vital services out there. You may say, 'There are no cuts in Western Queensland yet.' But it is exactly the same as the police cutbacks when they said, 'That is fine. There is nothing hitting us here,' but when you take away from middle management and other areas, there is always more pressure put on us.

I was talking to someone in the mainstream media here the other day. They said, 'There are five of us now where there used to be 20 or 25 journalists.' What does that do to the quality and content of our journalism? No wonder people find media so cynical now. I say that with no disrespect to our hardworking journalists. It does not reflect on them. It reflects on the way it is managed by the upper levels and how they are resourced. The result is that we now have these short messages from government. It is very cynical. They pick a winner in the papers, whether it be Liberal or Labor—or whoever is in government. If anyone else tries to put an alternative view, they do not get it out there.

We need these independent outlets, particularly in rural areas, to give us a voice and to provide an alternative view. If you start cutting resources and things like *7.30 Qld*—and we will only have a national *7.30*—that is terrible. News bulletins being cut from 10 minutes to five minutes makes it very tough for us. This is a resource that I listen to avidly and we need to hold on to that. I urge people to resist these cutbacks. I urge the federal government to reconsider the impact it is going to have on rural Queensland. It is a very critical service that they provide and that we do not want to lose.