

Susanna Flower – Greens Candidate for Richmond

1. Funding for the ABC

Q 1) a. The Australian Greens believe that ABC funding should be adequate to maintain its independence as a public broadcaster and provide sufficient capital for the production of programming equal to or better than commercial networks.

Will your party provide increased funding for the ABC so that it can fulfil its unique role as the national broadcaster?

Q 1) b Yes

2. Appointments to the Board of the ABC

Q 2) a. Appointments to the board of the ABC must have appropriate skills background and be free of any political or personal influences in this appointment.

Would your party introduce a change to the method of making appointments to the ABC Board to eliminate or reduce the incidence of political appointments?

b). Board members would be selected by application to a bipartisan committee with access to appropriate technical advise.

3. Freedom from political interference

Q 3) a. As per above.

Will your party ensure that the ABC is protected from political interference so that its investigative journalists can fearlessly but fairly uncover information of public interest?

b. Yes within our political sphere of power.

4. Implications of the Free Trade Agreement with the USA

Q 4) a. The Greens are apposed to the Free Trade Agreement.

Does your party feel that the proposed Free Trade Agreement with the USA will have any detrimental effect on public broadcasting or on Australian multi-media industries?

b. Yes.

5. Protection against calls for advertising on the ABC

Q 5) a. The Greens would move to strengthen legislation to oppose advertising on the ABC.

Will your party work to ensure that the ABC remains free of commercial advertising?

b. Yes.

6. Support for SBS as well as the ABC

Q 6) a. Yes the Greens strongly feel that the SBS and ABC provide essential but different services.

Will your party ensure that the Special Broadcasting Service fulfils its charter by educating Australians about cultures within our borders and overseas.

b. Yes.

7. Commitment to children's programs

Q 7) a. The Greens are committed to high quality Australian produced programming as an essential ingredient of childrens education.

Will your party provide sufficient funds for the ABC to produce high quality children's programs and to restore programs such as Behind the News and Fly.

b. Yes.

c.

8. Commitment to Australian drama

Q 8) a. The ABC is the flagship of quality Australian produced drama which must be fostered and protected if we are to maintain a viable arts community.

Will your party provide the ABC with sufficient funds to remain a producer of high quality Australian drama?

b. Yes.

9. Commitment to Radio Australia

Q 9) a. The closure of Radio Australia was in our view a mistake as our influence and cultural impact in South East Asia was largely dependent on radio Australia services.

Will your party provide sufficient funds for Radio Australia to provide a valuable service within the Asia Pacific region?

b. Yes.

10. Increased funds for digital technology

Q10) a. Digital technology must be fully exploited with interactive facilities fostered. The ABC should be at the cutting edge of this technology.

Will your party ensure that the ABC has sufficient funds to introduce digital technology and new media?

b. Yes.

11. Support for regional stations and regional production

Q 11) a. The reduction in regional station funding has resulted in a very noticeable reduction in standards and services. It is essential that this be reversed.

Will your party maintain the National Interest program and recognise the important role that the ABC plays in regional Australia?

b. Yes

Will your party ensure the expansion of NewsRadio into regional centres?

c. Yes.

12. Support for the full suite of ABC network services

Q 12) a. Diversity of services is the backbone of a strong national broadcaster. We would support current services and seek to expand them.

Will your party ensure that the ABC is provided with sufficient funds to continue all its network services including ABC TV, Local Radio, Radio National, Classic FM, Triple J, News Radio and ABC Online?

b. Yes.

What is your personal view on the role played by the ABC in the Australian community and how do you see it developing in the future?

From a personal perspective I am an avid ABC listener and watcher and was formerly a member of the Friends of the ABC. I believe the ABC is entertaining, informative and educational and I feel that a national public broadcaster is an imperative part of a healthy society. Good Australian television drama also provides a training ground for actors, technicians directors and producers. I would like to see a very healthy and expansive future for the ABC.