

27 May 2014

Geoff Gardner

Sent via email to: "Geoffrey Gardner" <geofg2@bigpond.com>

Dear Geoff,

I wanted to follow up with you to let you know our board on Monday had a long report and discussion about the changes being made at the NFSA out of our recent business review , including feedback from our stakeholders. This naturally included the petition you coordinated.

Let me assure you we take all the comments and opinions we have received, positive and negative, seriously, and welcome the concern and support we have received. It is very good to know people care so deeply about our film, music and broadcast collections as fundamental parts of our national cultural assets, as do we. It hardly needs saying that we also take our role and our statutory and other responsibilities in governance and stewardship of the NFSA extremely seriously.

Making change to any organisation to respond to changes in the environment is rarely easy. The review at the NFSA was conducted with rigour and with care. I understand you feel aggrieved that the review process itself was not conducted more publicly. I can only say to that that it would not have been possible or appropriate to do so at the review stage, where a line-by-line, position-by-position analysis was central to making decisions in the context of the objectives of the whole of our business, our financial position and of our broad and changing operating environment. Based on the review and the decisions taken by the board and management, our next stage is the development of our new business model. We have a clear and unambiguous commitment to open and engaged consultation about our new business model. As Michael has already discussed with you, we will over the next weeks share our vision for the NFSA and the draft strategic plan 2014/15 to 2016/17 in a series of meetings and workshops with supporters and key stakeholders, to engage the film, recorded sound and broadcast industry, academia, and the cultural sector and community at large.

We believe the this engagement around the country will not only provide a valuable forum for ideas, but also clarify the issues and allay concerns you and members of the community have: that the NFSA will become unresponsive to the industry and the community, that the national audiovisual collection built by Australia's creatives is at risk, and that staff expertise and knowledge will be lost indefinitely. We welcome the opportunity to share our vision, hear

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from our stakeholders in person and in detail, deepen our relationships, respond to questions, to explain the rationale behind the changes, and to engage in constructive discussion. The 'new', or rather renewed, NFSA is built on the notion of partnerships, and engagement with the sector and communities. What we hope to achieve through this process is to give you with confidence (even if we agree to disagree on individual points), to learn more about your expectations, and to get a better understanding of how you can support a strong and independent NFSA in challenging times.

We intend to hold the workshops in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Perth and Brisbane. The exact dates, times and venues will be confirmed soon, and I will let you know those details once finalised. Some of our supporters have volunteered to support the organisation and the communication around the workshops. Michael and I of course appreciate any support you may want to provide, and I look forward to attending as many of these workshops as possible.

We look forward to the opportunity for the NFSA to more deeply engage with supporters such as yourself and the other petition signatories, and to develop more meaningful ongoing alliances and partnerships in order to better deliver our mission to collect, preserve and share Australia's audiovisual heritage. In particular, I look forward to meeting you.

I thank you again for your concern and support of the NFSA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gabriella".

Chair, NFSA