



historycouncilnsw

28 February 2016

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Minister for the Arts
PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the History Council of New South Wales, the peak body for history in the state, regarding budget cuts to Commonwealth cultural institutions.

The National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Australian Democracy, the National Film and Sound Archive, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Library of Australia are all most important organisations for people in New South Wales interested in history. They are much visited and used, and are held in high esteem.

While the History Council appreciates the need for budgetary restraint, the recent round of cuts will result in key programs being cancelled or curtailed. I understand that the National Library, for instance, will reduce its subscriptions, cease publication of its widely read magazine and cease aggregating content in Trove, a historical resource of enormous value, from museums and universities unless it is fully funded to do so.

The History Council joins other individuals and community organisations in requesting that the Commonwealth government reconsider these savings. They only make a small contribution to repairing the Commonwealth budget but will have a grave impact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Carment'.

Emeritus Professor David Carment AM
President

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