Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**NT should be exempt from ABC budget cuts**  
24 November 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles has written to ABC Managing Director Mark Scott to urge him to reconsider his decision to cancel the 7.30NT program as part of a wider package of budget measures.

“On behalf of all Territorians, I have voiced my concern about the impact of ABC management’s decision to axe 7.30NT as part of its new round of budget cuts,” Mr Giles said.

“I believe that this is a vital current affairs program which provides important analysis of events which are important for our democracy and the people of the Northern Territory.

“The in-depth stories and interviews on 7.30NT are a crucial and unique contribution to public debate in such a small news market.

“While my government receives its fair share of scrutiny from the program, I stand by 7.30NT as an important source of balanced and considered information on important stories right across the Territory.

“It is particularly important for remote and regional areas of the NT which mainly rely on the quality programming of the ABC for news and information. 7.30NT’s coverage of the bush is unparalleled.

“I appreciate the recent budgetary constraints facing your organisation, but the NT has unique needs given its vast land mass and sparse population.

“I urge you to reconsider your decision and treat the Northern Territory as a special case, exempt from the current round of cuts.”

**Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801**