



Victorian Ministry for the Arts

Office of the Minister  
The Hon. Evan Walker, M.L.C.  
Minister for the Arts

1 SEP 1989

Mr John McLaren  
Associate Editor  
Overland  
359 Pigdon Street  
NORTH CARLTON 3054

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 27 August, 1989 concerning the budget cuts in the Arts Ministry.

The Ministry has certainly received cuts to its budget this year; a summary of our position is enclosed for your information. Within any one art form, such as literature, the details for the implementation of these cuts will be first attempted by the advisory panel for that art form. We would expect to receive their recommendations in about six weeks time, and there will be considerable discussion at that time as to how the policies that we have enunciated are best implemented.

It would be inappropriate for me to pass judgement on Overland or any other literary magazine, and I am puzzled as to the source of any suggestion that there is an attempt to reduce funding to any particular organisation or publication. You will be aware that I have written to the Federal Minister of Communications in strong defence of our literary magazines in Victoria, and I would hope that all of them survive the troubled times ahead.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

EVAN WALKER, MLC  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Enc.

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