

From: Margaret Reynolds
To: [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: FW: ABC Transmission Costs -Urgent Attention Minister Fifield
Date: Monday, 6 March 2017 23:15:10

Attention Secretariat

The letter below was sent in December to Minister for Communications

It was followed up with phone calls to both Minister for Communications and Minister for Foreign Affairs parliamentary offices early January.

We have not yet had a response.

With thanks

Regards

Margaret Reynolds

ABC Friends National President

Subject: ABC Transmission Costs -Urgent Attention Minister Fifield

My dear Minister

I am sure you are aware of the increased transmission costs being borne by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in an already restricted economic climate.

The ABC has cut short wave services in the Northern Territory and introduced digital services which reach a substantial section of the population .

However isolated Territorians are not all able to access ABC radio services and this is especially concerning approaching the cyclone season

Similarly there is a major issue among a number of Pacific Islands nations which rely on Australian short wave services for vital communications.

We urge you to look at the need to separately fund such essential communication costs as distinct from ABC programming costs.

In addition I am confident the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is concerned that the loss of short wave services among our Pacific neighbours impacts on our international relations especially as Australia is the first to respond to natural disasters in our region so preventative measures should also be considered as part of our aid responsibilities.

I understand that Pacific leaders and Territory parliamentarians are calling for urgent action to guarantee essential communications so ABC Friends trust that the government can specifically target funding for short wave services to remain in isolated areas of Australia and the Pacific Region

With thanks

Best wishes for the festive season

Margaret Reynolds

National President

ABC Friends

Sent from my iPad