

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On behalf of Friends of ABC Byron Bay I wish to oppose the proposal by Minister for Communications Helen Coonan, to abolish the position of a staff-elected member to the Board of the ABC.

As the only position on the Board not appointed by the Government, the staff-elected appointment is essential to protect the independence required to comply with the ABC Charter, both economically and politically.

Equally important is the professional expertise and knowledge of the mechanics of program making, and all facets of broadcasting, lacking in all other members of the incumbent Board. This has also been the case frequently in the past.

The Friends of ABC Byron Bay are opposed to the commercialisation of the ABC in any form and believe that the proposed Amendment would facilitate such a change. In the strongest possible terms we request that the Amendment be **THROWN OUT**.

Yours faithfully,
Jill Keogh.