

## ABC FRIENDS BACK SENIOR BROADCASTERS OVER MANAGEMENT

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ABC Friends has expressed outrage at a new level of radio management being installed at the ABC, at the same time as the corporation is facing a funding-cuts crisis.

Friends Spokesman Ranald Macdonald says the reported re-structuring of ABC radio management, which included a number of new high-level jobs, was of "grave concern."

Mr Macdonald was speaking from Albury-Wodonga, where ABC Friends has been holding special campaign meetings ahead of a pre-election push in the marginal seat of Indi.

"I've just spent two days at public meetings about the ABC and its ability to maintain services, particularly in regional areas," he said.

"There have been so many questions about likely reduced resources AND a slew of new managers."

"It's certainly not the way to comfort staff nervous about their futures," he said.

Mr Macdonald's comments followed a report in The Guardian Australia that 17 senior Radio National broadcasters had written to the ABC board warning against 'serious consequences' for listeners from the new plan.

Veteran broadcasters Fran Kelly, Margaret Throsby, Robyn Williams, Norman Swan and Geraldine Doogue have written to the ABC board condemning a plan to add another layer of "preposterously named executives."

According to the report, the restructure: "will see an effective management merger between the ABC's five radio networks Radio National, Classic FM, Triple J, News Radio and local radio.

The letter, signed by 17 of Radio National's most senior broadcasters, expresses "profound concern" about a plan to restructure the radio division that could have "serious consequences" for ABC radio listeners if implemented.

"ABC Friends is in complete support of these broadcasters as they take a brave stand for the effective and efficient preservation of what matters most for the ABC: its programmes," Mr Macdonald said.

For further questions or comment please contact: Ranald MacDonald 0424 545 516 and/or Margaret Reynolds 0418 181 843