

FRIENDS OF THE ABC inc
HUNTER REGION

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SUBMISSION TO ABC SENATE ENQUIRY

24.7.01

The Hunter branch of the Friends of the ABC wishes to express its deep concern at what it perceives to be the political nature of the manner of making appointments to the board of the ABC.

Our position is that we would like to see in place a process of appointment characterised by the following features:

- # a fully independent body to make appointments, with balanced representation from all sides of the political process;
- # a mechanism for barring from appointments those with established links to political groups;
- # the selection of board members with an established background in public broadcasting.

We are deeply concerned by the current state of the ABC, as regards funding and administration and believe that many of the ABC's problems can be traced back to the composition of the board. Our belief is that "political appointments" to the board have been a feature of successive governments from both sides of Australian politics and that this has worked to the detriment of the ABC.

Greg Struck
(President, Hunter FABC)