



## The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

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**Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway**

MC22-003948

Ms Lindsay Somerville  
Conveyor  
ABC Friends NSW and ACT  
PO Box 1391  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059  
[smrv8888@gmail.com](mailto:smrv8888@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Somerville

*Lindsay*

Thank you for your generous letter of 17 June 2022 offering congratulations on my appointment as the Minister for Communications, and for outlining ABC Friends' key issues of concern in support of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

It was a pleasure to speak at the ABC Friends rally in Sydney, in the lead up to the federal election, only to go on to celebrate the ABC 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in August 2022. A copy of the Prime Minister's speech is available at [www.pm.gov.au/media/abc-90th-anniversary](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/abc-90th-anniversary).

It is an incredible honour and privilege to have the opportunity to serve our nation and I am very pleased to have been appointed to this portfolio which gives me the opportunity to take a leadership role to continue to work hard for the people of Australia to achieve the best possible outcomes for the country.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of the ABC as a vital news and cultural institution that strengthens Australia's media diversity, contributes to the cultural and social fabric of the nation and represents a major Commonwealth contribution to public interest journalism.

Through natural disasters and emergencies like bushfires and floods, the ABC provides life-saving emergency broadcasting for local communities. The ABC is a trusted source of information for Australians.

The national broadcasters are key democratic institutions whose independence is enshrined in legislation. During the election we made a number of commitments related to the national broadcasters, including moving to five-year funding terms, as well as restoring \$83.7 million in funding to the ABC arising from the 2018 indexation pause on operational finding.

We also committed to boosting ABC's role in the Indo-Pacific region, and reviewing options for delivering greater financial stability and certainty to safeguard against funding cuts and political interference.

The Government will be consulting on these measures as appropriate. I look forward to engaging with ABC Friends on these important issues as I discharge my Ministerial responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rowland', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Rowland MP

6 / 10 / 2022