

6th December 2013

Letter to the Editor, Age & SMH



Dear Editor

Re: The move against the ABC is on . . . (reports in *The Age* & Murdoch media lobbying)

A concerted campaign is being mounted by opponents of public broadcasting.

News Corp media outlets are waging war on the ABC. The Murdoch clan views public broadcasting as a competitor for its audiences; in other words, its profits. Its attacks on the national broadcaster and spiralling efforts to seek its demise are dressed up in some distorted profession of public interest.

In recent weeks, *The Age* has reported significant happenings: the Victorian Liberal Party's adoption of a motion to privatise the ABC; Prime Minister Abbott's public admonition of the ABC for publishing leaks that Australia spied on Indonesia's president; the efforts of prominent Liberals in the Coalition party room to have the Government act against the ABC.

There have been calls for the ABC's online service to be shut down, funding cut, advertising or paid subscriptions introduced for some ABC services, and the ABC's international service hived off to the commercial sector.

People who appreciate the importance of Australia maintaining an independent national broadcaster should not wait to act. Coalition members of parliament should be reminded of Tony Abbott's clear promise prior to the election to maintain the ABC.

Yours sincerely

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President
Friends of the ABC (Vic)

GS: media folder