

24<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Letters Editor: Daily Telegraph



Dear Editor

**Re: Piers Akerman Seeks to Discredit FABC (Daily Telegraph 24.7.07)**

Piers Akerman has sought to discredit Friends of the ABC by unfairly maligning some of the individuals within it. (Daily Telegraph, July 24)

FABC is a broad church. Amongst its members are supporters of both major political parties and none. What unites us is our interest to protect the ABC against governments of any political persuasion that seek to undermine it.

Akerman's article conveniently fails to mention FABC's campaign to defend the ABC when the Hawke Labor government was in office. He did not accuse Friends of being a Liberal Party front when former Liberal Premier Sir Rupert Hamer was its spokesperson.

The community is entitled to know of the Howard Government's \$66 million (12%) cut to the ABC's triennial funding and the serious threats posed to the ABC's political and commercial independence. Mr Akerman's misrepresentation of FABC will not stop the organisation from campaigning in marginal electorates to encourage the public to consider the ABC's future when they vote.

Yours sincerely

Professor Alan Knight  
National Spokesperson  
Friends of the ABC

GS: media folder