

From: Torney, Kate

Subject: NEWSGATHERING – THE NEXT STEPS

I am pleased to share some welcome news with you all at the start of a new year.

It's good news for our news and current affairs teams, for the many staff across other divisions who work with us to produce coverage for radio, television and digital platforms, and, most importantly, it is great news for ABC audiences.

ABC News has received additional funding of \$10 million from the Federal Government to enhance our output of independent, quality news.

With this additional funding, we will embark on a second phase of the newsgathering project, investing in our news and current affairs teams across the country by recruiting more journalists in more areas and by putting more cameras and links in regional Australia.

We will also recruit specialist reporters in key areas, establish a fact-checking/research unit, recruit a Freedom of Information Editor, and enhance our capacity to do more original and local reporting.

This investment will deliver more quality coverage for Australian audiences and allow ABC News to enhance the service it has proudly provided for 80 years.

This increased investment is a credit to you all. Whether you work in a regional, state, international or continuous newsroom or a current affairs program, your ongoing commitment to delivering strong coverage for audiences allows ABC News to uphold and build its reputation as the most trusted news source in the nation.

In the next week or so there will be a range of staff meetings to discuss the new initiatives, and a number of staff from across ABC will be working with News management to finalise plans.

This further investment comes off the back of the important work carried out last year to review and reorganise our news operations to meet new and growing audience demands. These changes continue and I am pleased to announce the latest senior appointments to our News team as part of this restructure.

The new senior appointments are:

Editor of Planning Desk:	Gavin Fang (Asia Pacific News Centre)
Editors of Newsgathering Desk: Correspondent)	John Shovelan (ABC News, former Washington Correspondent)
	Rob Cross (News)
	Philippa Quinn (News)
Editors of Production Desk:	Paul Muggeridge (ABC News 24)
	Sue Stephenson (ABC News 24)
	Glenn Trowbridge (News)
TV News Editor:	Tim Ayliffe (News Breakfast)

International Editor: Michael Carey (International)

The new Network Rounds are:

Defence & National Security:	Michael Brissenden
Social Affairs:	Sally Sara
Rural & Regional:	Peter Lewis
Resources & Business:	Sue Lannin
Consumer Affairs:	Amy Bainbridge
Science & Technology:	Jake Sturmer

Craig McMurtrie, Gaven Morris, Bruce Belsham and I look forward to working closely with the new team and state editors in rolling out the further changes of the newsgathering project. As planned, the new desks and rounds will begin in March.

Following the departure of Peter Lewis from Landline for his new reporting role, Ben Hawke will move into the position of Executive Producer on Landline. Ben has a long association with the Landline team and his strong editorial skills and experience will be great assets for the program. Ben will also continue to oversee a number of long form projects for ABC News.

I also want to take this opportunity to announce a new role for Steven Alward. Steven is taking up a new position as Editor of Policy, Training and Development and will work with Alan Sunderland across a range of policy areas, but most importantly he will be leading the provision of training across the Division. As you know, training is going to be a vital part of the changes we are rolling out, and Steven has a very strong track record in this area. I am pleased to welcome him to this role and thank him for his work in international news over the past couple of years.

It's a busy time for ABC News and one filled with great opportunities. I met the 2013 cadets earlier this week, moments after their arrival at the ABC. More than 1100 people applied for cadetships this year, 7 made it through. They are an incredibly talented bunch and recognise the endless opportunities they now have before them, but they are also acutely aware of the responsibility and accountability which comes with representing ABC News.

There is no better time to be part of ABC News and I look forward to working with you all on the new initiatives in coming months.

Regards,

Kate.