



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

8 March 2017

Littleproud MP welcomes the ABC's restructure

The Federal Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, has today welcomed the announcement by ABC's Managing Director, Ms Michelle Guthrie, of a restructure that will see new jobs injected into the regions under the ABC's "Investing in Audiences" strategy.

Ms Guthrie announced that as part of the new strategy, which will see a priority investment in the regions, the ABC will reduce management positions to fund a \$50 million Content Fund to facilitate the creation of 80 content roles in the regions, as well as committing to an investment in new tools and technologies.

Mr Littleproud said today, "I absolutely applaud this move by the ABC and I think it sends a strong message that our regional and rural communities are important and deserve to be recognised.

"I am looking forward to seeing the ABC increase their local content and I think that's an important part of the education piece where we as a nation get to learn more about the unique challenges and opportunities in regional and rural Australia – whether that be through a local story or achievement, witnessing the community spirit behind a local show or watching coverage from the local footy game.

Mr Littleproud is hopeful that Maranoa - as the largest and most regional electorate in Queensland - will be a major beneficiary of some of the new content roles, which he believes aligns with the National Party's decentralisation focus and will make representations to the ABC about the need for new local content jobs in Roma and Charleville in Queensland's South-West, in addition to advocating for more support for Longreach in Queensland's Central West.

"A new reporter placed in Roma could potentially bring to town a new family, put kids in the local school and contribute to not only Roma's economy, but to the community.

The placement of up to 80 content roles is due to take place within 18 months, while the ABC will invest almost \$4 million on new tools and technologies.

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