

Peter Munro

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2018 12:26 PM
To: 'Neil Griffiths'
Cc: Amy Reiha
Subject: RE: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Neil,
Nothing more to add at this stage beyond what I sent you last month.
Cheers, Peter.

From: Neil Griffiths <neil@themusic.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2018 10:38 AM
To: Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>
Cc: Amy Reiha <Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Peter,

Hope you've had a great weekend.

Just wanted to see if ABC will be or has already responded to Anthony Albanese's letter calling for the broadcaster to purchase the Radio Birdman documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host
neil@themusic.com.au

The Music
+61 2 8302 5555
129/111 Flinders St, Surry Hills, 2010
<http://www.themusic.com.au>

From: Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 July 2018 11:50 AM
To: Neil Griffiths

Cc: Amy Reiha

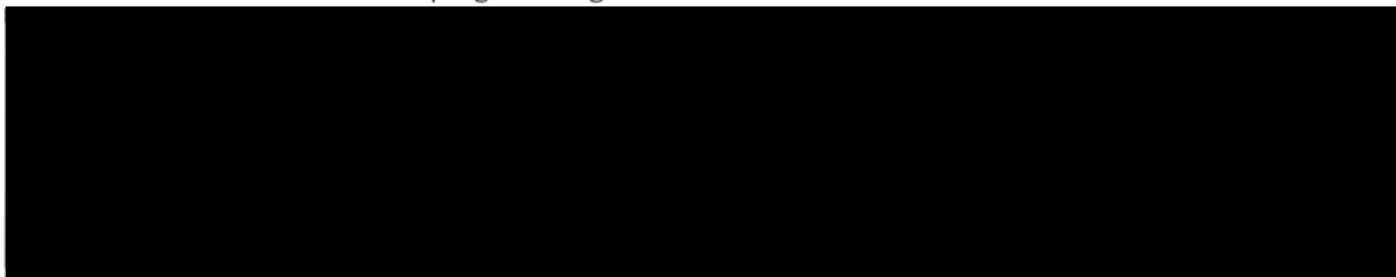
Subject: FW: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hello Neil,

Amy Reiha passed on your email to me.

The ABC does not comment on programming decisions.

7(2)PM, 47F



Please let me know if you need anything else.

Go well,

Peter.



Peter Munro

Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082

M

47F

E munro.peter@abc.net.au



From: Neil Griffiths <neil@themusic.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 July 2018 9:20 AM

To: Amy Reiha <Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au>

Subject: Radio Birdman

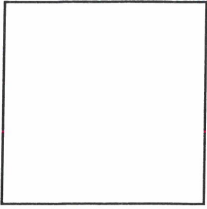
Importance: High

Hey Amy,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to see if ABC would like to comment on the decision not to screen Radio Birdman's documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host
neil@themusic.com.au

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Peter Munro

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:52 PM
To: 'Neil Griffiths'
Cc: Amy Reiha
Subject: RE: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Neil,
We had a change of heart on this one – in terms of commenting.
Here is a statement from an ABC spokesman:

ABC STATEMENT

The ABC did opt to pass on the documentary. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

Radio Birdman played an important role in Australia's music history and the development of our independent music scene. Credit to them for their high energy, uncompromising attitude and, as one prominent fan put it, "outlaw reputation". But there are so many significant Australian bands and only so much time in the day. Our slate for Ausmusic Month is already filled with programs celebrating Australian music and artists, including a new music show, live performances, drama series and documentaries about Australian artists past and present, plus our unrivalled commitment to emerging and established Australian musicians on triple j, Double J and triple j Unearthed. We will also offer new children's content aimed at inspiring Australia's next generations of musicians and music lovers.

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Hi Peter,

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Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host
neil@themusic.com.au

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Hello Neil,
Amy Reiha passed on your email to me.
The ABC does not comment on programming decisions.

7(2)PM, 47F

Please let me know if you need anything else.
Go well,
Peter.



Peter Munro
Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082
M [REDACTED] 47F
E munro.peter@abc.net.au



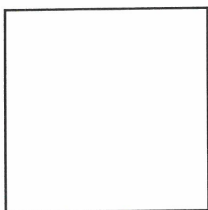
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Importance: High

Hey Amy,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to see if ABC would like to comment on the decision not to screen Radio Birdman's documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host
neil@themusic.com.au

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Peter Munro

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 10:35 AM
To: meadeaguardian@gmail.com
Subject: FW: media query: Radio Birdman film

Hi Amanda,
David forwarded me your email. Here's a statement from an ABC spokesman.
Go well, Peter.

ABC STATEMENT

The ABC did opt to pass on the documentary. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110 minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

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From: Amanda Meade <meadeaguardian@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, 22 August 2018 at 4:20 PM
To: David Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: media query: Radio Birdman film

Dear David,

ABC TV execs Katrina Ray and Dallas Krueger have told Jonathan Sequeira, producer of the doco *Descent into the Maelstrom - The Radio Birdman Story*, that the film has been rejected for ABC TV.

It was originally considered for Australian Music Month but no other slot has been found.

Anthony Albanese has been campaigning for the ABC to buy the film, and has written to you about it and has spoken in parliament. What have you said to him?

<https://twitter.com/AlboMP/status/1029917211509444608>

Is there a specific reason why it can't be shown on the ABC given it's very cheap content?

Thanks,

Amanda

--
Amanda Meade
Media correspondent
[Guardian Australia](#)
E amanda.meade@theguardian.com

47F

T @meadea
Media column [The Weekly Beast](#)

Peter Munro

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 10:33 AM
To: 'kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au'
Subject: FW: Radio Birdman doco

Hi Karl,
Hope you're well. Sally passed on your email to me – I joined the ABC about four months ago.
Here's our statement in response from an ABC spokesman. Please let me know if you need anything else.
Go well, Peter.

ABC STATEMENT

The ABC did opt to pass. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

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From: Karl Quinn <kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 10:04 AM
To: Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>
Subject: Radio Birdman doco

Hi Sally,

I'm doing a small story on the Radio Birdman doco Descent Into the Maelstrom and the producer's claim that it was offered to the ABC, and could have been acquired for for \$10,000, late last year, but after an initial expression of interest (probably for inclusion in Australian Music Month) it was declined.

The producer claims Dallas Krueger said there was no money to acquire it, and that Friday nights were dedicated to British dramas, and that outside of Australian Music Month it really didn't fit into the schedule.

You may be aware that Anthony Albanese has raised this in Parliament and has written to the ABC urging a rethink. His office tells me he has not yet received a reply.

I'm filing this afternoon but wanted to give you (the ABC) or Dallas an opportunity to put your position in your own words.

I'm on [REDACTED] or 03 8667 2938.

Best
47F

Karl Quinn
Senior Entertainment Writer
Fairfax Media

email: kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au

tel: +61 (0)3 8667 2938

Facebook: [karlquinnjournalist](#)

Podcast: [The Clappers](#)

Twitter: [@karlkwin](#)

snail mail: Level 2, Media House, 655 Collins Street, Melbourne Docklands, Vic 3008

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Peter Munro

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 12:03 PM
To: Amanda Meade
Subject: Re: Weekly Beast errors


Sure.



Peter Munro
ABC Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist
P +61 2 8333 3082
M +61 420 440 654
E munro.peter@abc.net.au

From: Amanda Meade <meadeaguardian@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 11:44
To: Peter Munro
Subject: Re: Weekly Beast errors

You sent the statement a day after I asked the question and after we'd published but I will include some of it.

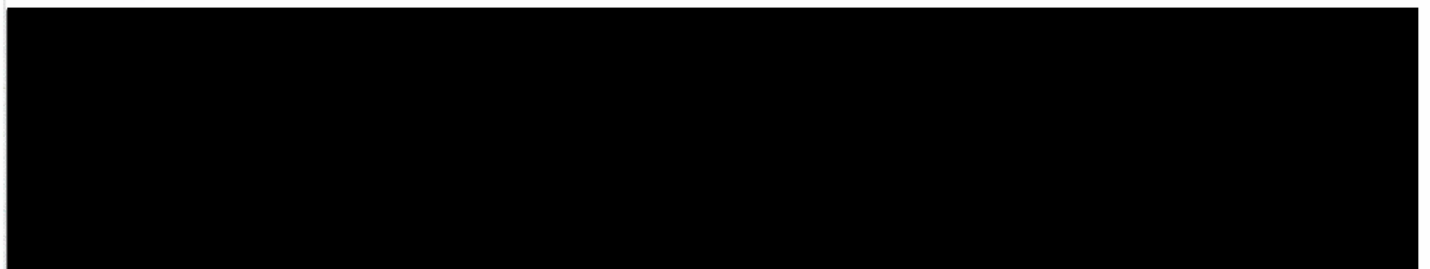


On Fri, 24 Aug 2018 at 11:31 am, Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au> wrote:

Hi Amanda,



RADIO BIRDMAN

- I hope you might include our statement emailed to you this morning, which explains the reasons for our decision.
- 

Cheers, Peter.



Peter Munro
Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082

47F

E munro.peter@abc.net.au



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Sent from Gmail Mobile

[REDACTED]

From: Emma McDonald
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:43 PM
To: Kevin McAlinden; Phoebe McIntyre
Subject: RE: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

I haven't seen it but will follow up.

From: Kevin McAlinden
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:42 PM
To: Phoebe McIntyre <McIntyre.Phoebe@abc.net.au>; Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

We put out a statement about Birdman? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

47C

From: Phoebe McIntyre
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:00 PM
To: Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>; Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

From: Managing Director's Office
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 4:59:37 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: justin@cicomilne.com; pjl@brmps.com; 'Kirstin Ferguson'; Donny@behindcloseddoors.com; Vanessa@vanessaguthrie.com; 'Georgie Somerset'; 'Joe Gersh'; Jane Connors; Michelle Guthrie
Cc: Rini Kajairi; Luisa McIlvride; Sarah Hazelton; Daniella Ronnestad; Julie ENTWISTLE; Bob Forrest; Louise Higgins; Michael Millett; Phoebe McIntyre; Sally Jackson; Annabel McGilvray; Managing Director's Office; Connie Carnabuci; Pamela Longstaff; Emma McDonald
Subject: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

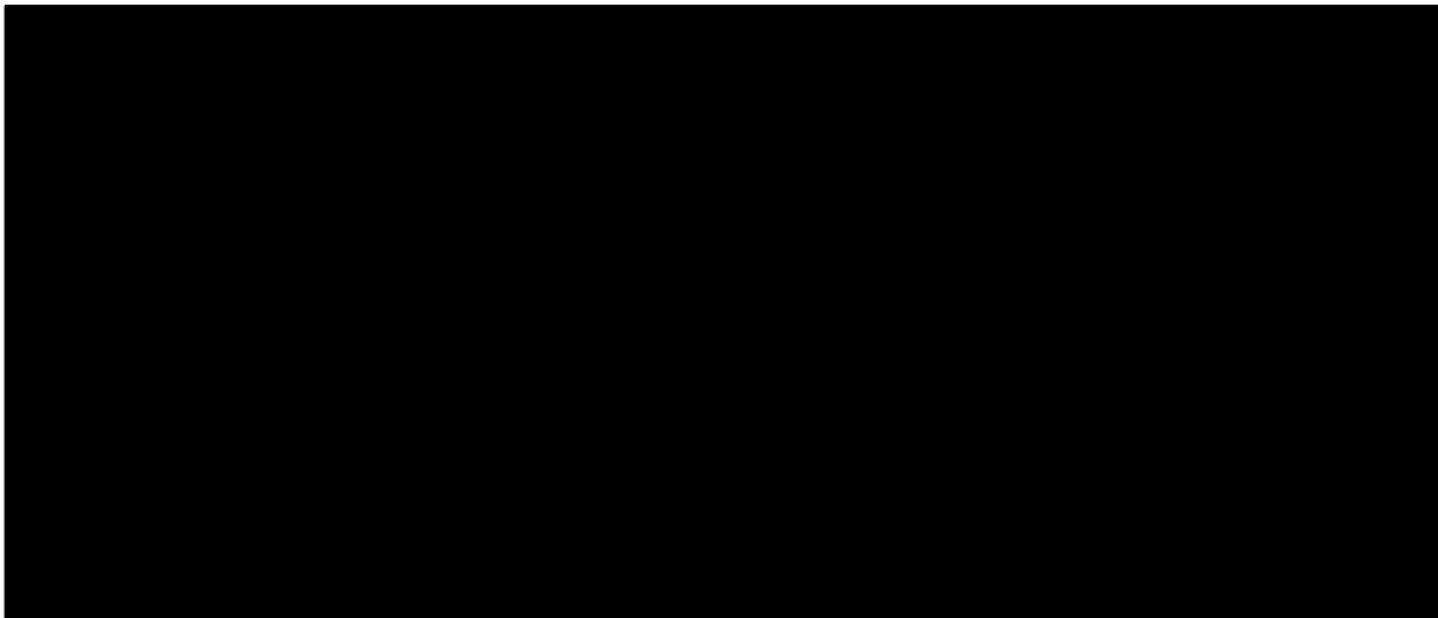
Dear Directors,

Please find below key talking points for week ending Friday 24 August 2018.

out of scope of request

[REDACTED]

- **RADIO BIRDMAN:** The ABC issued a statement on Friday in response to media reports and queries, including social media criticism from Anthony Albanese, on the decision not to acquire a documentary on Australian band Radio Birdman. The ABC said that as a responsible public broadcaster, it doesn't acquire unnecessary content and the documentary did not meet criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards.



Kind regards,
Jo

out of scope of request



Joanne Sanders
Executive Assistant to Managing Director

P +61 2 8333 5342 E managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au



[REDACTED]

From: Emma McDonald
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 6:27 PM
To: Peter Munro
Cc: Sally Jackson; Kirsty Traves; Kevin McAlinden
Subject: RE: Radio Birdman

Thanks Peter. [REDACTED]

47F

From: Peter Munro
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:50 PM
To: Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>
Cc: Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>; Kirsty Traves <Traves.Kirsty@abc.net.au>; Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Radio Birdman

Sure thing – statement below. This was sent today to the Guardian and Fairfax Media, in response to their queries.

[REDACTED]

ABC STATEMENT

47C, 47F

The ABC did opt to pass. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

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From: Emma McDonald
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 5:44 PM
To: Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>
Cc: Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>; Kirsty Traves <Traves.Kirsty@abc.net.au>; Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>
Subject: Radio Birdman

Hi Peter – would you mind sending Kevin and me a copy of the statement you made about Radio Birdman.
Thanks
Emma



Emma McDonald
Head of Public Affairs

P 02 8333 5206

47F

E McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au

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TUESDAYS 8.30PM

ABC + iview WATCH NOW ►





From: Kevin McAlinden
Sent: Saturday, 25 August 2018 11:12 AM
To: Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>
Subject: Tweet by Radio Birdman Film



Radio Birdman Film (@radiobirdmandoc)

25/8/18, 10:17 am

Today I read ABC response to a Federal MPs letter. Except they didn't respond, they ignored him! But replied to the (excellent) @meadea in 24 hours. I won't post ABC response as I consider it defamatory. Something is seriously wrong at ABC. #auspol twitter.com/AlboMP/status/...