

**From:** Patterson, Sam (A. Albanese, MP) [mailto:Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2018 4:41 PM  
**To:** David N Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Anthony Albanese - Radio Birdman - Letter of Support

Dear David,

Thank you for sending through your details [REDACTED]

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Please find attached a letter of support from Anthony in regards to the ABC deciding not to acquire the broadcasting rights to *Descent into the Maelstrom – The Radio Birdman Story*.

Please feel free to give me a ring if you would like to discuss this further, I am sure Anthony would be happy to chat as well.

Enjoy your weekend.

Regards,

Sam

**Sam Patterson**  
Electorate Officer

Office of the Hon Anthony Albanese MP | Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development | Shadow Minister for Tourism | Federal Member for Grayndler | Ph: 02 9564 3588 | Mob: [REDACTED] | [Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au](mailto:Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au) | 334a Marrickville Road, Marrickville NSW 2204 | RG-115 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GRAYNDLER



Mr David Anderson  
Director Entertainment & Specialist  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
ABC Ultimo Centre  
700 Harris Street  
Ultimo NSW 2007

Dear Mr Anderson,

I write to you regarding the ABC's recent decision not to acquire the broadcasting rights to Jonathan Sequeira's documentary film *Descent into the Maelstrom – The Radio Birdman Story*, about iconic Australian punk band *Radio Birdman*.

The creation of the band by Deniz Tek and Rob Younger in Sydney in 1974, cemented the foundation of Australian punk rock – laid by Chris Bailey and Ed Kuepper of *The Saints* the same year.

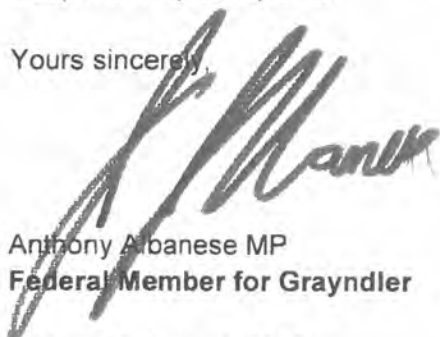
The bands visceral performances, attended by thousands, are an important part of Australia's musical history – not to mention the release of their first full-length studio album *Radios Appear* in 1977, to critical acclaim.

Through the cunning use of archival and present day footage spliced together, Jonathan Sequeira has managed to capture the band's journey and outlaw reputation on film – a journey that was integral to the development of the independent music scene in Australia.

I implore the ABC to reconsider acquiring the rights to the film and for it to be broadcasted to the Australian public free-to-air.

Keep the fun(house) alive.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Albanese MP  
Federal Member for Grayndler

Friday, 10 August, 2018

**From:** Rachael Nathan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 August 2018 5:02 PM  
**To:** 'Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au' <Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Letter from David Anderson - re Radio Birdman

Hi Sam

Please find attached letter from David Anderson to The Hon Anthony Albanese MP regarding the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.

Kind regards  
Rachael



Rachael Nathan  
EA to Director Entertainment & Specialist

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30 August 2018

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Federal Member for Grayndler  
334a Marrickville Road  
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

Dear Mr Albanese

RE: Radio Birdman

Thank you for your letter of 10 August about the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.

I appreciate your passion for Radio Birdman and the independent Australian music scene and can assure you that we share the same desire to support and promote our local music industry.

The ABC has a long legacy of nurturing Australian music from our earliest radio and television programs through to triple j and Unearthed, the only music station to play 100% independent Australian acts. The ABC also is well known for documenting the history of Australian music, including recent programs on The Go-Betweens and The Saints.

In 2017 we were approached by the producer of *Descent into the Maelstrom*. Both the ABC acquisitions team and I have watched the program and I agree with their view that the 110-minute documentary does not meet the quality standards we require for broadcast to a national audience. This decision is no reflection on the band and their significant role in Australian music.

The ABC is required to make these types of editorial decisions regularly. The ABC will continue to be a champion for Australian music through initiatives such as this weekend's One Night Stand in Tasmania. We also have a number of exciting projects coming up for Ausmusic month, which we will kick off with a special *Spicks and Specks* reunion show. I would be pleased to discuss these programs with you at any time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DA Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Anderson  
Director Entertainment & Specialist