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ABC chairman must stand aside immediately

ABC chairman Justin Milne should heed the decision of his board and stand aside today to allow a comprehensive, independent inquiry to go ahead into alleged political interference in the running of the ABC.

Further revelations today that Mr Milne urged former managing director Michelle Guthrie to “shoot” the network’s political editor, Andrew Probyn, make his position as chairman completely untenable, said MEAA chief executive Paul Murphy.

On top of earlier reports that Mr Milne also told Ms Guthrie to sack the ABC’s economics editor, Emma Alberici, indicates a pattern of overt political interference in the running of the ABC that is in clear breach of the ABC charter and the role of the chairperson.

Mr Milne seems to have misunderstood that the role of the ABC is as a public broadcaster, not a mouthpiece for the government of the day.

He must stand aside immediately, and these issues must be investigated fully by an independent inquiry.

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