

Media Release

### JOHN LYONS JOINS ABC NEWS

JOHN Lyons, one of Australia's leading journalists, is to join ABC News as Head Investigative and In-depth Journalism.

He will lead Australia's premier current affairs teams and programs across broadcast and digital, including 7.30, Australian Story, Four Corners, Q&A, Insiders, Offsiders, Lateline, Foreign Correspondent, Behind the News, AM, PM, The World Today and Correspondents Report, as well as finding the best ways to deliver the ABC's finest investigative and long-form content to new audiences.

A three-time Walkley Award winner, Lyons' previous roles include being the Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald, Executive Producer of the Nine Network's Sunday program, a foreign correspondent in Washington, New York and Jerusalem and, currently, Associate Editor (Digital Content) at News Corp's The Australian.

ABC Director, News Gaven Morris said Lyons was an outstanding editorial leader.

"As platforms and channels change, information outlets multiply and fake news proliferates, the demand for trusted sources of information, well-told stories and quality, news-breaking journalism is greater than ever," he said.

"The centrepiece at ABC News is always the journalism, and John will play a key role in delivering our best in-depth and investigative reporting to all Australian audiences when, where and how they want to consume it."

Lyons said: "After ten great years at *The Australian*, I'm delighted to be joining the ABC in this important role at a time when independent public interest journalism is more vital than ever.

"With people increasingly getting their news and information through different means, it is crucial we are able to present strong investigative journalism on digital platforms. The ABC is committed both to investigative journalism and to telling stories in ways relevant to a changing society."

Lyons takes over from Bruce Belsham, who held the role (previously called Head of Current Affairs) with distinction for five years.

#### **John Lyons**

A three-time Walkley Award winner and one of Australia's leading journalists, John Lyons is currently Associate Editor (Digital Content) at *The Australian*. He has previously been the

Editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Executive Producer of the Nine Network's *Sunday* program. John has been a foreign correspondent in Washington, New York and most recently Jerusalem. From the Middle East he won the Walkley for best investigative journalism for a report he presented on the ABC's *Four Corners*. While based in Jerusalem, he also won three United Nations human rights awards and wrote his recently-published memoir, "*Balcony Over Jerusalem*". John has also won the Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year.

**ENDS**

For more information, please contact Sally Jackson, Media manager ABC News & Current Affairs, [Jackson.sally@abc.net.au](mailto:Jackson.sally@abc.net.au) /0405 115 158