

Suggestions of Australian foreign policy adjustments

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Updated July 6, 2010 08:24:00

It is still not clear how Australia's new Prime Minister Julia Gillard will approach her role as the current chair of the Pacific Islands Forum as her elevation sparks suggestions that the management of foreign policy will be different to her ousted predecessor Kevin Rudd.

Mr Rudd was well known as a foreign policy activist. Julia Gillard on the other hand has little foreign policy experience, so far indicating she will take advice from her foreign minister, Stephen Smith, and make no major changes.

Yet Fairfax newspapers in Australia have headlined that in an interview that Ms Gillard has rejected a central Rudd initiative for an Asia Pacific Community.

Presenter: Linda Mottram, Canberra correspondent

Speaker: Richard Woolcott, former Australian diplomat and foreign affairs secretary; Dr Malcolm Cook, East Asia program direction at Lowy Institute for International Policy

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