

## **Carmen Smith leaves The Voice**

In a move determined to be in the spirit of the show, Joel Madden's team member Carmen Smith, will leave The Voice prior to the live shows on Monday.

Carmen has a significant role in the new music video from Guy Sebastian and as such would be deemed to have an unfair advantage as the show moves into the public voting stage as the video is on current release and highly visible.

Nine Network Director of Development Adrian Swift said: "This was not a decision we and Team Joel took lightly. Our priority as we move into the voting period toward the finale is that all of the artists are on a level playing field. In our business we are often confronted by these tough decisions and unfortunately at this time it's been decided that it isn't appropriate for her to remain in our competition. We wish Carmen well and thank her for a wonderful contribution to the show thus far."

"It saddens me that I am leaving The Voice earlier much earlier than I had hoped. However, I've loved every minute of it and respect the decision that has been made by Joel and his team", Carmen said. "I've sung on Guy's albums and been part of his band for many years so I'm thrilled to be in the clip and am looking forward to getting back to work and also working on my solo career".

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