From: Clara Hawker
To: DL - Carolyn Lidgerwood and Assistant; DL - Autumn Field & Assistant
Cc: DL - Alana Fraser & Assistant; [redacted]
Subject: FW: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 21 August 2026 2:28:48 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg
image006.jpg
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
260821_ABC cover letter and response to ACMA investigation report BI-753 Sacrifice.pdf

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OFFICIAL

Hi Carolyn and Autumn

ABC have responded with their submission on Sacrifice. They are maintaining that a breach is not appropriate and warning of the possible consequences on investigative journalism.

They are not offering any remedial action, however, note that they will post the report and a public statemen form the ABC on their corrections page.

They also ask for at least 24 hours' notice of publication. They do not repeat the request for a meeting but are open to discussion if we would like.

We will acknowledge receipt and no doubt some internal discussion on this is worthwhile.

Clara

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 21 August 2026 2:14 PM
To: Clara Hawker[redacted]
Cc: Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>; Gavin Fang[redacted] Fiona Cameron[redacted] ombudsmansoffice <ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear Clara,

Please find attached the ABC's cover letter and response to the investigation report re Four Corners *Sacrifice* (BI-753)

Many thanks,
[redacted]

ABC

[redacted]
Executive Assistant to Editorial Director
ABC Editorial Policies
[redacted]

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 4:15 PM
To: Ombudsman's Office <ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au>
Cc: Clara Hawker [redacted] Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>; Gavin Fang [redacted]
Subject: RE: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your email.
I confirm receipt of the ABC's email and note that the ACMA will receive the ABC's submissions on Friday 21 August 2026.
Regards,

[redacted]
Compliance Officer
Content Oversight Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority
[redacted]

The ACMA acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia. We respect and celebrate First Nations peoples as the original storytellers and content creators of the lands on

which we work and honour the enduring strength and commitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land, waters and their communities. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

OFFICIAL

From: ombudsmansoffice <ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 12:33 PM
To: [redacted] ombudsmansoffice <ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au>
Cc: Clara Hawker [redacted] Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>; Gavin Fang <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action

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Dear [redacted]
Thank you for your email.
I confirm receipt of ACMA's email of 31 July 2026.
The deadlines for comments on publication under s 180 and for submissions on remedial action are somewhat overlapping in practice. The ABC is preparing its response and intends to address both matters by 21 August 2026, including providing a statement for potential inclusion in the final report. Given the report contains findings that may adversely affect the interests of relevant persons, it seems sensible for ACMA to have the benefit of the ABC's complete response, including any submissions on remedial action, before proceeding with publication.

Regards
Fiona Cameron

Fiona Cameron
Ombudsman
[redacted] [redacted]

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OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 10:56 AM
To: Ombudsman's Office <ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au>
Cc: Clara Hawker <[redacted] Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Fiona,

Investigation about *Four Corners* 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025

I'm just following up on the ACMA's email dated 31 July 2026 regarding the above matter.

Could you please confirm receipt of the ACMA's email dated 31 July 2026 and advise whether the ABC intends to make any comments on the publication of the Investigation report (noting that the response date was **14 August 2026**).

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] Compliance Officer
Content Oversight Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority
[redacted]

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OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 10:26 AM
To: ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au
Cc: Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>
Subject: For ABC response: Investigation about Four Corners 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025 - Section 180 comments and submission on remedial action [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

ACMA reference: BI-753

Dear Fiona,

Investigation about *Four Corners* 'Sacrifice' broadcast on the ABC on 10 March 2025

As you are aware, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) has been investigating a complaint about the above program.

The ACMA has considered the ABC's submission on preliminary findings, dated 22 May 2026.

The ACMA has concluded its investigation and determined that the ABC:

- did not breach the accuracy provision of the ABC Code of Practice 2024 (the Code)
- breached the impartiality provision of the Code.

A copy of the final Investigation Report, including the decision and the reasons for that decision, is attached (Attachments A and B are included in the report and Attachments C to E are attached separately).

Proposed publication
The ACMA proposes to publish the Investigation Report. Publication may include the full report being posted on the ACMA's website as well as a summary appearing in the ACMA's Annual Report and other ACMA publications. A media release or web announcement may also be issued.

You and, through you, any relevant third parties involved in the program are invited to comment on publication of the report under section 180 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA), which states:

If publication of matter in a report or part of a report would or would be likely to

adversely affect the interests of a person, the ACMA must not publish the report or the part of the report until it has given the person a reasonable period, not exceeding 30 days, to make representations, either orally or in writing, in relation to the matter.

The ACMA would ask that any comments on publication are provided to broadcasting@acma.gov.au by **5pm Friday 14 August 2026.**

Request for submission on remedial action
In the submission on preliminary findings, the ABC proposed that, at this stage, it would not be proposing any remedial action in response to the preliminary report.

The ACMA would invite the ABC to make a submission on the actions it intends to take to remedy the breach of the impartiality provision of the Code. The ACMA will be considering all the remedial options available under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the BSA), including a section 152 notice.

The ACMA would ask that the ABC provides a response on remedial action to broadcasting@acma.gov.au by **5pm Friday 21 August 2026.**

Please contact Autumn Field, General Manager, Content Division on (or Alana Fraser, Executive Manager, Content Safeguards Branch on (should you wish to discuss.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Acting Manager for Content Oversight Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority
broadcasting@acma.gov.au
acma.gov.au

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