From: Alana Fraser
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] james.penprase; [redacted]; Grunhard, Samuel; Autumn Field; [redacted]
Subject: ACMA - embargoed investigation report and media release - ABC Four Corners "Sacrifice"
Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2026 10:07:00 AM
Attachments: BI-753 Investigation report - Australian Broadcasting Corporation.docx
ABC submissions dated 21 August 2026 .pdf
Embargoed - Four Corners Sacrifice - media release.docx
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg

Dear [redacted]

FOR INFORMATION – embargoed investigation report and media release - ABC *Four Corners* 'Sacrifice' – publication 10am Thursday 17 September

I am writing to let you know that the ACMA will be publishing an investigation report about the above program at **10:00 am tomorrow** (17 September).

On 30 July 2026, the ACMA finalised an investigation into the above program about its reporting on the management, funding, and redevelopment project of the Australian War Memorial (AWM), broadcast on 10 March 2025. The investigation followed a complaint from The Hon Kim Beazley AC, AWM, Council Chairman (Mr Beazley) on behalf of the AWM (the ACMA received a number of other complaints about this program as well).

Findings
The ACMA found that the ABC:

- did not breach the accuracy requirements under the ABC Code of Practice 2024 - the broadcast did not inaccurately present misleading and distorted representations by manipulating the audio during the bugle sounding of the Last Post Ceremony); and
- breached the impartiality requirements under the ABC Code of Practice 2024 - the ABC was not impartial in its reporting about the AWM's redevelopment Project and the findings of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report and the way it was presented.

Publication
Embargoed copies of the investigation report (and the ABC's submissions dated 21 August 2026) and accompanying media release are attached.

These are intended to be published on the ACMA's website after 10 am on Thursday 17 September 2026. We kindly request that this is kept under embargo until it is published. The ACMA will advise the ABC 24 hours prior to publication and will also advise the complainant one hour prior to publication on Thursday 17 September 2026.

Remedial action
This is the second ACMA finding this year that a Four Corners program breached the ABC Code (the other was in relation to an August 2024 episode: 'Water Grab'). The ABC has advised it disagrees with the ACMA's finding and is not proposing to take any remedial action; and that it will post the report and a public statement on the ABC's corrections and clarifications page.

Given the ABC's position and in the interests of transparency, the ACMA will publish the

ABC's submission alongside the investigation report.

The ACMA is considering the regulatory response available to it, noting that under the broadcasting legislation it may recommend but cannot compel the ABC to take remedial action for a breach of its Code.

Please feel free to contact myself or [redacted], Manager, Content Oversight Section ([redacted]) if you have any queries.

Kind regards
Alana

Alana Fraser (she/her)

Executive Manager
Content Safeguards Branch
I work Monday to Thursday (part-time day Friday)

Australian Communications and Media Authority
[redacted]
acma.gov.au

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 and present.