






















Screenshot of online complaint as submitted to the ACMA




Broadcasting 

Broadcasting Matters > BM-005674 >





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BROADCASTING MATTER: INFORMATION

BM-005674 

Created On
11/10/2019 2:40 PM

Queue
ACMA Content

Assigned To
 


Submission Details

Responsible Section

Submitted By

Subtype

Content Investigation Section


 Stephen Barclay

BM


Queue

Date Received


Online Reference Number

 ACMA Content Investigations Section


11/10/2019

 ACMA-BM-6066OCUK14


Submitted: Broadcast Program

 30 and 31 July Channel 7 news broadcast at 6pm


Submitted: Broadcast Station

 Channel 7 news


Submitted: Broadcast Location

 Brisbane


Submitted: Captioning Broadcaster Type

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Submitted: Have you contacted the broadcaster

 Yes - response received


Submitted: Broadcast Date(s)

 30/07/2019 8:00:00 PM|31/07/2019 6:00:00 PM

Submitted: Regulations

 Commercial Television Industry Code of practice

Summary

 Broadcast which invades a person's privacy; Broadcast which did not present news fairly and impartially

The Channel 7 broadcast on 30 July 2019 displayed two QBCC letters and which clearly identified two QBCC officer's names, both of which were not relevant to the broadcast. This was an unwanted and uninvited intrusion upon a person's private affairs. The broadcast of the officers' names without consent was not warranted. The officers' name are clearly identifiable from the broadcast and despite the assertions from Channel 7 the intrusion was 'fleeting' does not account for the pausing or recording of live television for later viewing. The key points to the broadcast could have been made and the public interest served without disclosing personal information. Further, the broadcast blurred the contents of the letters yet did not blur the names of the QBCC officer. The clear inference is that the names of the officers were somehow important to the story, which is not the case.

The broadcast on 31 July 2019 centred on a complaint from a Mr Mark Agius. Mr Agius had pre-recorded an interview with the Channel 7 reporter at his residence in Townsville, yet during the QBCC Commissioner's interview with the same reporter on the afternoon of 31 July 2019 the reporter failed to mention the complaint of Mr Agius, nor were any questions put to the Commissioner about the complaint. The broadcast failed to mention that the QBCC had been in contact with Mr Agius on a number of occasions in relation to his complaint. Accordingly, there was no fair treatment or opportunity given to the Commissioner to express an opinion; the principle of gathering and presenting balanced information with due impartiality was disregarded;