



Senator Ross Cadell

SENATOR FOR NSW
NATIONALS WHIP IN THE SENATE

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe,

I write regarding questions I posed to ABC Managing Director David Anderson on Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at Supplementary Budget Estimates pertaining to social media guidelines.

I direct you to the Hansard below;

Senator CADELL: It's sad that our national broadcaster will focus so much on race issues here. I'm from regional Australia, and I think the ABC is a very important tool for my areas. But getting it right is important, so unfortunately I am going to stay on that. Social media guidelines and staff: We went through that at I think last estimates, with those reviews. I want to take you to Phillip Adams's tweet on 26 December 2022, where he labels Sir Donald Bradman a 'right-wing nut job'. He later went on to say that his not meeting Nelson Mandela was doubling down on his racism and white supremacy. And then when Kamahl came to the defence of Don Bradman, Phillip Adams labelled him an 'honorary white' in the eyes of Donald Bradman. Have you reviewed those tweets, by an ABC employee, and their effect in the world?

Mr Anderson: Yes, we have. That was certainly unfortunate. My understanding is that Mr Adams has written to Kamahl apologising for that.

Senator CADELL: Privately?

Mr Anderson: Privately written to him, apologising for that. Yes, we have investigated, and, as I have said before, I think any employee is entitled to confidentiality, certainly when it comes to allegations by the ABC of serious misconduct. They have a right of reply and a right to procedural fairness. The ABC makes a determination, and that should remain confidential. But I think that was disappointing to see.

On Thursday, 16 February 2023 Kamahl wrote to Mr Anderson informing him he had not received an apology from Mr Adams.

Given the information that has come to light, I ask that you write to Mr Anderson requesting an update and explanation on his answer to the committee referenced above.

Yours sincerely,

