

**Peter Munro**

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**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 August 2018 12:26 PM  
**To:** 'Neil Griffiths'  
**Cc:** Amy Reiha  
**Subject:** RE: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Neil,  
Nothing more to add at this stage beyond what I sent you last month.  
Cheers, Peter.

---

**From:** Neil Griffiths <neil@themusic.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 August 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>  
**Cc:** Amy Reiha <Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Peter,

Hope you've had a great weekend.

Just wanted to see if ABC will be or has already responded to Anthony Albanese's letter calling for the broadcaster to purchase the Radio Birdman documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host  
[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)

The Music  
+61 2 8302 5555  
129/111 Flinders St, Surry Hills, 2010  
<http://www.themusic.com.au>

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**From:** Peter Munro <[Munro.Peter@abc.net.au](mailto:Munro.Peter@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 July 2018 11:50 AM  
**To:** Neil Griffiths

Cc: Amy Reiha

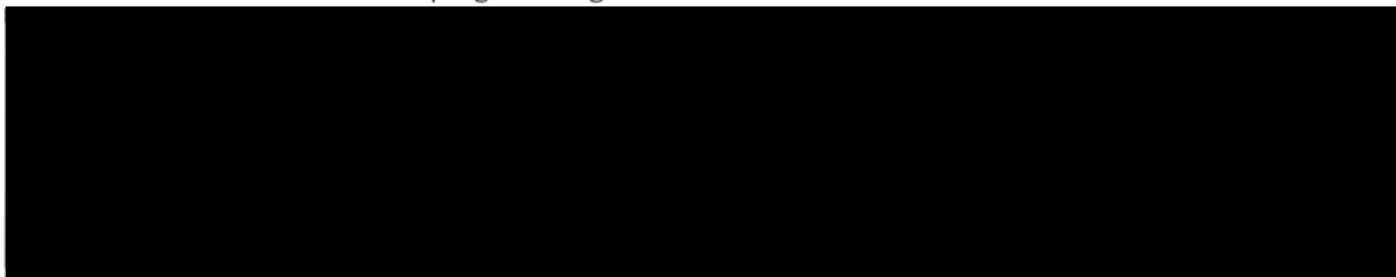
Subject: FW: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hello Neil,

Amy Reiha passed on your email to me.

The ABC does not comment on programming decisions.

7(2)PM, 47F



Please let me know if you need anything else.

Go well,

Peter.



Peter Munro

Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082

M

47F

E [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)



From: Neil Griffiths <[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)>

Sent: Monday, 16 July 2018 9:20 AM

To: Amy Reiha <[Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au](mailto:Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au)>

Subject: Radio Birdman

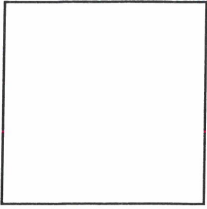
Importance: High

Hey Amy,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to see if ABC would like to comment on the decision not to screen Radio Birdman's documentary?

Cheers,



**Neil Griffiths** - Editor/Podcast host  
[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)

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**Peter Munro**

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**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:52 PM  
**To:** 'Neil Griffiths'  
**Cc:** Amy Reiha  
**Subject:** RE: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Neil,  
We had a change of heart on this one – in terms of commenting.  
Here is a statement from an ABC spokesman:

**ABC STATEMENT**

The ABC did opt to pass on the documentary. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

Radio Birdman played an important role in Australia's music history and the development of our independent music scene. Credit to them for their high energy, uncompromising attitude and, as one prominent fan put it, "outlaw reputation". But there are so many significant Australian bands and only so much time in the day. Our slate for Ausmusic Month is already filled with programs celebrating Australian music and artists, including a new music show, live performances, drama series and documentaries about Australian artists past and present, plus our unrivalled commitment to emerging and established Australian musicians on triple j, Double J and triple j Unearthed. We will also offer new children's content aimed at inspiring Australia's next generations of musicians and music lovers.

---

**From:** Neil Griffiths <neil@themusic.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 August 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>  
**Cc:** Amy Reiha <Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hi Peter,

Hope you've had a great weekend.

Just wanted to see if ABC will be or has already responded to Anthony Albanese's letter calling for the broadcaster to purchase the Radio Birdman documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host  
[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)

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**From:** Peter Munro <[Munro.Peter@abc.net.au](mailto:Munro.Peter@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 July 2018 11:50 AM  
**To:** Neil Griffiths  
**Cc:** Amy Reiha  
**Subject:** FW: Radio Birdman - comment request - themusic.com.au

Hello Neil,  
Amy Reiha passed on your email to me.  
The ABC does not comment on programming decisions.

7(2)PM, 47F

Please let me know if you need anything else.  
Go well,  
Peter.



Peter Munro  
Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082  
M [REDACTED] 47F  
E [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)



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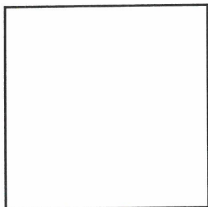
**From:** Neil Griffiths <[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 July 2018 9:20 AM  
**To:** Amy Reiha <[Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au](mailto:Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Radio Birdman  
**Importance:** High

Hey Amy,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to see if ABC would like to comment on the decision not to screen Radio Birdman's documentary?

Cheers,



Neil Griffiths - Editor/Podcast host  
[neil@themusic.com.au](mailto:neil@themusic.com.au)

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**Peter Munro**

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**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 10:35 AM  
**To:** meadeaguardian@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: media query: Radio Birdman film

Hi Amanda,  
David forwarded me your email. Here's a statement from an ABC spokesman.  
Go well, Peter.

**ABC STATEMENT**

The ABC did opt to pass on the documentary. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110 minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

Radio Birdman played an important role in Australia's music history and the development of our independent music scene. Credit to them for their high energy, uncompromising attitude and, as one prominent fan put it, "outlaw reputation". But there are so many significant Australian bands and only so much time in the day. Our slate for Ausmusic Month is already filled with programs celebrating Australian music and artists, including a new music show, live performances, drama series and documentaries about Australian artists past and present, plus our unrivalled commitment to emerging and established Australian musicians on triple j, Double J and triple j Unearthed. We will also offer new children's content aimed at inspiring Australia's next generations of musicians and music lovers.

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**From:** Amanda Meade <[meadeaguardian@gmail.com](mailto:meadeaguardian@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 22 August 2018 at 4:20 PM  
**To:** David Anderson <[Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au](mailto:Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** media query: Radio Birdman film

Dear David,

ABC TV execs Katrina Ray and Dallas Krueger have told Jonathan Sequeira, producer of the doco *Descent into the Maelstrom - The Radio Birdman Story*, that the film has been rejected for ABC TV.

It was originally considered for Australian Music Month but no other slot has been found.

Anthony Albanese has been campaigning for the ABC to buy the film, and has written to you about it and has spoken in parliament. What have you said to him?

<https://twitter.com/AlboMP/status/1029917211509444608>

Is there a specific reason why it can't be shown on the ABC given it's very cheap content?

Thanks,

Amanda



--  
Amanda Meade  
Media correspondent  
[Guardian Australia](#)  
E [amanda.meade@theguardian.com](mailto:amanda.meade@theguardian.com)

47F

T @meadea  
Media column [The Weekly Beast](#)



**Peter Munro**

---

**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 10:33 AM  
**To:** 'kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au'  
**Subject:** FW: Radio Birdman doco

Hi Karl,  
Hope you're well. Sally passed on your email to me – I joined the ABC about four months ago.  
Here's our statement in response from an ABC spokesman. Please let me know if you need anything else.  
Go well, Peter.

**ABC STATEMENT**

The ABC did opt to pass. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

Radio Birdman played an important role in Australia's music history and the development of our independent music scene. Credit to them for their high energy, uncompromising attitude and, as one prominent fan put it, "outlaw reputation". But there are so many significant Australian bands and only so much time in the day. Our slate for Ausmusic Month is already filled with programs celebrating Australian music and artists, including a new music show, live performances, drama series and documentaries about Australian artists past and present, plus our unrivalled commitment to emerging and established Australian musicians on triple j, Double J and triple j Unearthed. We will also offer new children's content aimed at inspiring Australia's next generations of musicians and music lovers.

**From:** Karl Quinn <[kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 10:04 AM  
**To:** Sally Jackson <[Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au](mailto:Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Radio Birdman doco

Hi Sally,

I'm doing a small story on the Radio Birdman doco Descent Into the Maelstrom and the producer's claim that it was offered to the ABC, and could have been acquired for for \$10,000, late last year, but after an initial expression of interest (probably for inclusion in Australian Music Month) it was declined.

The producer claims Dallas Krueger said there was no money to acquire it, and that Friday nights were dedicated to British dramas, and that outside of Australian Music Month it really didn't fit into the schedule.

You may be aware that Anthony Albanese has raised this in Parliament and has written to the ABC urging a rethink. His office tells me he has not yet received a reply.

I'm filing this afternoon but wanted to give you (the ABC) or Dallas an opportunity to put your position in your own words.

I'm on [REDACTED] or 03 8667 2938.

Best  
47F

**Karl Quinn**  
**Senior Entertainment Writer**  
**Fairfax Media**

email: [kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:kquinn@fairfaxmedia.com.au)

tel: +61 (0)3 8667 2938

Facebook: [karlquinnjournalist](#)

Podcast: [The Clappers](#)

Twitter: [@karlkwin](#)

snail mail: Level 2, Media House, 655 Collins Street, Melbourne Docklands, Vic 3008

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**Peter Munro**

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**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 12:03 PM  
**To:** Amanda Meade  
**Subject:** Re: Weekly Beast errors

Sure.




Peter Munro  
ABC Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist  
P +61 2 8333 3082  
M +61 420 440 654  
E munro.peter@abc.net.au

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**From:** Amanda Meade <meadeaguardian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2018 11:44  
**To:** Peter Munro  
**Subject:** Re: Weekly Beast errors

You sent the statement a day after I asked the question and after we'd published but I will include some of it.

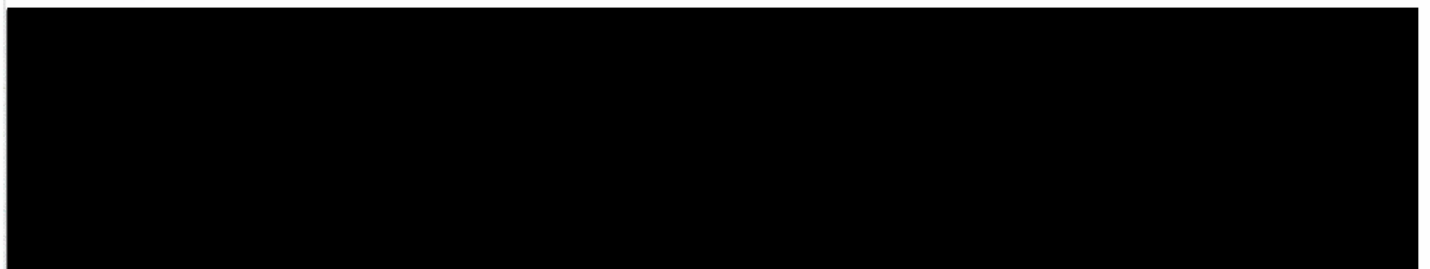


On Fri, 24 Aug 2018 at 11:31 am, Peter Munro <[Munro.Peter@abc.net.au](mailto:Munro.Peter@abc.net.au)> wrote:

Hi Amanda,



RADIO BIRDMAN

- I hope you might include our statement emailed to you this morning, which explains the reasons for our decision.
- 

Cheers, Peter.



Peter Munro  
Communications Lead, Entertainment & Specialist

P +61 2 8333 3082

47F

E [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)



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--  
Sent from Gmail Mobile

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Emma McDonald  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:43 PM  
**To:** Kevin McAlinden; Phoebe McIntyre  
**Subject:** RE: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

I haven't seen it but will follow up.

**From:** Kevin McAlinden  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:42 PM  
**To:** Phoebe McIntyre <Mcintyre.Phoebe@abc.net.au>; Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

We put out a statement about Birdman? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

47C

**From:** Phoebe McIntyre  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:00 PM  
**To:** Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>; Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

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**From:** Managing Director's Office  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 4:59:37 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney  
**To:** [justin@cicomilne.com](mailto:justin@cicomilne.com); [pjl@brmps.com](mailto:pjl@brmps.com); 'Kirstin Ferguson'; [Donny@behindcloseddoors.com](mailto:Donny@behindcloseddoors.com); [Vanessa@vanessaguthrie.com](mailto:Vanessa@vanessaguthrie.com); 'Georgie Somerset'; 'Joe Gersh'; Jane Connors; Michelle Guthrie  
**Cc:** Rini Kajairi; Luisa McIlvride; Sarah Hazelton; Daniella Ronnestad; Julie ENTWISTLE; Bob Forrest; Louise Higgins; Michael Millett; Phoebe McIntyre; Sally Jackson; Annabel McGilvray; Managing Director's Office; Connie Carnabuci; Pamela Longstaff; Emma McDonald  
**Subject:** Key Talking Points for Week Ending 24 August 2018

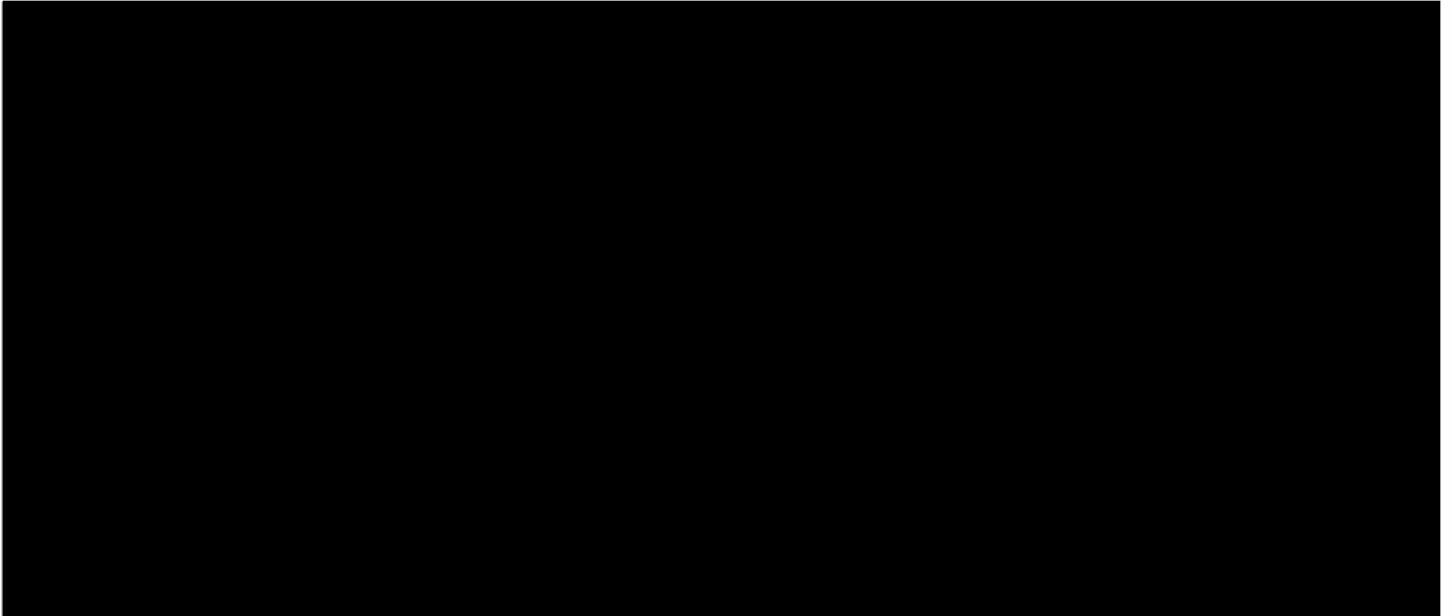
Dear Directors,

Please find below key talking points for week ending Friday 24 August 2018.

out of scope of request

[REDACTED]

- **RADIO BIRDMAN:** The ABC issued a statement on Friday in response to media reports and queries, including social media criticism from Anthony Albanese, on the decision not to acquire a documentary on Australian band Radio Birdman. The ABC said that as a responsible public broadcaster, it doesn't acquire unnecessary content and the documentary did not meet criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards.



Kind regards,  
Jo

out of scope of request



Joanne Sanders  
Executive Assistant to Managing Director

P +61 2 8333 5342 E [managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au](mailto:managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au)





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Emma McDonald  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 6:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Munro  
**Cc:** Sally Jackson; Kirsty Traves; Kevin McAlinden  
**Subject:** RE: Radio Birdman

Thanks Peter. [REDACTED]

47F

**From:** Peter Munro  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:50 PM  
**To:** Emma McDonald <McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au>  
**Cc:** Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>; Kirsty Traves <Traves.Kirsty@abc.net.au>; Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Radio Birdman

Sure thing – statement below. This was sent today to the Guardian and Fairfax Media, in response to their queries.

[REDACTED]

ABC STATEMENT

47C, 47F

The ABC did opt to pass. As a responsible public broadcaster, we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. In this case, it didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or our quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

Radio Birdman played an important role in Australia's music history and the development of our independent music scene. Credit to them for their high energy, uncompromising attitude and, as one prominent fan put it, "outlaw reputation". But there are so many significant Australian bands and only so much time in the day. Our slate for Ausmusic Month is already filled with programs celebrating Australian music and artists, including a new music show, live performances, drama series and documentaries about Australian artists past and present, plus our unrivalled commitment to emerging and established Australian musicians on triple j, Double J and triple j Unearthed. We will also offer new children's content aimed at inspiring Australia's next generations of musicians and music lovers.

**From:** Emma McDonald  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2018 5:44 PM  
**To:** Peter Munro <Munro.Peter@abc.net.au>  
**Cc:** Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>; Kirsty Traves <Traves.Kirsty@abc.net.au>; Kevin McAlinden <McAlinden.Kevin@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Radio Birdman

Hi Peter – would you mind sending Kevin and me a copy of the statement you made about Radio Birdman.  
Thanks  
Emma





Emma McDonald  
Head of Public Affairs

P 02 8333 5206

47F

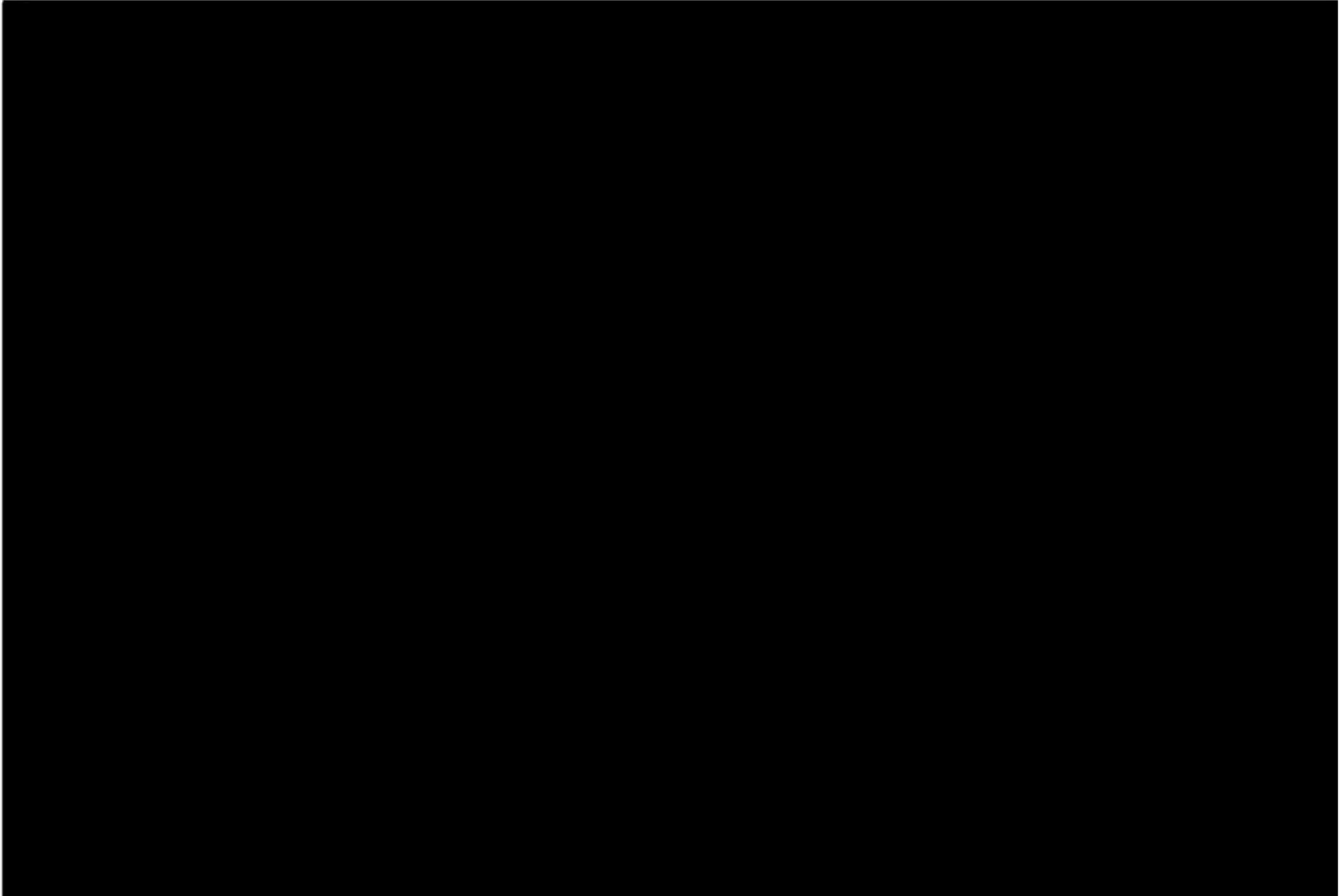
E [McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au](mailto:McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au)

**WAR**  
**ON WASTE**

TUESDAYS 8.30PM

**ABC + iview WATCH NOW ►**





**From:** Kevin McAlinden  
**Sent:** Saturday, 25 August 2018 11:12 AM  
**To:** Emma McDonald <[McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au](mailto:McDonald.Emma@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Tweet by Radio Birdman Film



**Radio Birdman Film (@radiobirdmandoc)**

25/8/18, 10:17 am

Today I read ABC response to a Federal MPs letter. Except they didn't respond, they ignored him! But replied to the (excellent) @meadea in 24 hours. I won't post ABC response as I consider it defamatory. Something is seriously wrong at ABC. #auspol [twitter.com/AlboMP/status/...](https://twitter.com/AlboMP/status/...)