

**Ray Kuka, Director of News and Current Affairs at Seven,**

The costs of the program to have machete bins on Victorian streets can't be ignored. Our viewers deserve to know if they are getting bang for taxpayer bucks.

7NEWS has reported that individual bins cost '*two and a half thousand dollars each*' (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September) but also accurately reported '*the whole scheme costing the taxpayer 13 million dollars – or 325 thousand a bin*'.

While we appreciate the Government requested a take down because it didn't fit with their messaging on a controversial project, we are not a publicity machine for them and can do our own maths.

Feel free to publish the text exchange, but it's a surprise the Government has leaked messages to Media Watch upset because our ethical reporters didn't bow to spin doctors.

7NEWS reporters are trained to analyse and question press releases and to hold their ground while under pressure from government media teams.

The State Government should perhaps consider an advertising package to have their controlled messaging reach our huge audiences and so our news bulletins can stick to journalism.

We can pass on contacts in our sales team if you are still liaising with them.