

Statement from Dr Michael Douglas, University of Western Australia Law School:

'The ABC are in a hard position. I wish they hadn't handed over the footage but I understand why they did.

WA's Shield Laws protect the likes of the ABC when they maintain the confidentiality of their sources. These laws will not have an impact where there was no promise to protect the source's identity: https://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/wa/consol_act/ea190680/s20i.html

I understand the protestors feel betrayed by the ABC, but they should have foreseen this happening when they took the action they did on camera.

But again: the real villains here are Meg O'Neill and Woodside. Ms O'Neill has the full weight of a massive company, and apparently also the police force, backing her up. Why is she still punching down on these protestors? It is not a good look. It comes across as extremely thin-skinned.

And also hypocritical. Does Woodside actually care about the 'energy transition'? If it did, maybe it would not be demonising those in the community who feel most passionately about the issue. This episode smells like Woodside greenwashing.'