

6 October 2023

**Statement from Dr Piero Moraro, lecturer in criminology at WA's Edith Cowan University:**

**1. Does this development concern you and why?**

It really concerns me. It risks further isolating activists, who presumably turned to ABC to get some unbiased coverage of their non-violent protest. Yielding to WAPOL's request would undermine the trust activists have in the ABC, and further reduce avenues for them to express their dissent. Also, WAPOL's request will undeniably deter other media outlets from covering anti-coal protests.

**2. Is there any precedence for this, from your knowledge of protests in Australia in recent times?**

Not of this kind of interference. Police have been known to have monitored activists, infiltrated their groups and deployed disproportionate force against them. I am not aware of cases where they have ordered the media to provide footage of a protest. Media footage is not akin to CCTV one.

**3. Do you see this as part of a broader crackdown on climate protestors?**

This is in line with the ongoing attack on the right to protest in Australia, involving disproportionate punishments (+20K fine, up to 5 years' imprisonment for a traffic disruption), overnight/repeated police raids to activists' homes, overly stringent bail conditions, incessant scare campaigns on the media.

**4. Is there any other comment you would like to make?**

I hope if/when this footage is released to the public, it will become obvious that those protesters did nothing that warranted this reaction by law enforcement agencies. Hopefully, it will shift public attention to Woodside's, rather than the activists' conduct.