

1-JUNE-2026

**A spokesperson for *The Nightly*:**

The suggestion that *The Nightly* and journalist Aaron Patrick failed to provide Mr Andrew Hastie MP with a fair opportunity to respond prior to publication is incorrect.

“On 7 May 2026 – more than two weeks before publication – Aaron Patrick sent a detailed email to Mr Hastie’s senior media adviser, Ruby Jinman, outlining the scope and central themes of the forthcoming article and inviting engagement. The article was subsequently published online on 22 May and in print on 23 May.

“This approach was taken despite Mr Hastie’s public statement of 9 April 2026, in which he acknowledged his potential role as a witness in forthcoming legal proceedings and stated: “Therefore, I will not prejudice this trial by making any further comment.”

“*The Nightly* rejects any suggestion that Mr Hastie was denied an opportunity to comment. He was contacted well in advance of publication, provided with a clear outline of the article’s subject matter, and given ample opportunity to respond.

“It is therefore curious that Mr Hastie refused to respond to Aaron Patrick’s detailed inquiries, yet chose to engage directly with *Media Watch*.”

For any future inquiries regarding *The Nightly* or Seven’s news editorial, please loop in myself alongside Britt moving forward. Neil’s remit has shifted slightly to focus on our broader corporate communications.