

From: s 22 [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, 16 August 2018 9:43 AM  
To: David N Anderson [redacted]@abc.net.au>  
Cc: s 22 [redacted]@abc.net.au>; Rachael [redacted]  
[redacted]@abc.net.au>  
Subject: Re: Descent into the Maelstrom

Hi David,

s 22 [redacted] has asked me to send through a link to the Radio Birdman documentary – Descent into the Maelstrom.

Please see following.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you require any further context/detail.

Regards  
s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

From: s 22  
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2018 2:40 PM  
To: David N Anderson s 22 @abc.net.au>  
Cc: Rachael @abc.net.au>  
Subject: Fwd: Letter from s 22 to Albo

Hi David

Here's the draft I sent to s 22. He will make some tweaks and get back to me on Monday. We will need to update things based on the outcome of your meeting today.  
Best of luck with Albo

s 22

P s 22

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E s 22 @abc.net.au

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From: s 22 @abc.net.au>

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 11:28

To: s 22

Subject: Letter from s 22 to Albo

Hi s 22

I think we have discussed this one in the past..

David would like to respond to a letter from Anthony Albanese about our decision to not acquire a Radio Birdman documentary. Albo sent David the latter and posted a screen grab of it on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/AlboMP/photos/a.537786969588753/1999936113373824/?type=3&theater>

Albo has had a go at us in today's Guardian about the fact we have not responded to him: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/aug/24/news-corp-bites-back-after-uhlmanns-spray-on-liberal-leadership>

We have sent the Guardian a short statement about our decision. David would like to send a letter (by email?) to Albo along the same lines. I have pasted below what we have in mind.

I don't know about our protocols or procedures in such cases.

Please let me know if the letter suits and if you are OK for David to simply email it direct to Albo today, to nip this one in the bud. Happy for any feedback about how we best word such missives.

Cheers, s 22

DRAFT LETTER TO ANTHONY ALBANESE

Dear Mr Albanese,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 August 2018 about the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.

I agree that 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 you put it, "outlaw reputation". They are fortunate to have such a loyal following of fans such as yourself.

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.

We do our best to keep the fun (house) alive for all Australians every day. But as you might expect, as a responsible public broadcaster we don't acquire content that we do not have a need for. I have seen the documentary and agree with the decision by the ABC's acquisitions team. In this case, it simply didn't make sense to spend money on a 110-minute documentary that we did not have room for and which did not meet our criteria for either audience appeal or quality standards. We regularly make such decisions in line with our budget and our priority of commissioning new and distinctive content for audiences.

While you may not agree with our decision in this case, I hope you might at least agree with the process and reasoning behind the decision.

Aloha and yours sincerely,

David Anderson

ABC Director Entertainment & Specialist



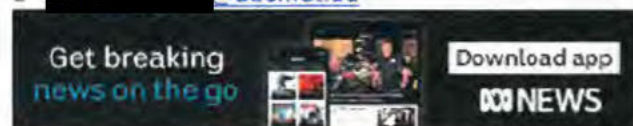
s 22

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E s 22

@abc.net.au



From: s 22  
 Sent: Monday, 27 August 2018 9:40 AM  
 To: David N Anderson <s 22@abc.net.au>  
 Cc: Rachael Nathan <Nathan.Rachael@abc.net.au>  
 Subject: RE: Draft letter to Anthony Albanese

You can also mention the Spicks and Specks reunion if you like – as we have put out a release about it.

Suggested inclusion below.

s 22

From: s 22  
 Sent: Monday, 27 August 2018 9:26 AM  
 To: David N Anderson <s 22@abc.net.au>  
 Cc: Rachael <s 22@abc.net.au>  
 Subject: Draft letter to Anthony Albanese

Hi David,  
 The draft has been tweaked by s 22 So it's good to go, pending your approval.  
 Go well, s 22

Dear Mr Albanese,  
 Thank you for your letter of 10 August about the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.  
 I appreciate your passion for Radio Birdman and the independent Australian music scene and can assure you that we share the same desire to support and promote our local music industry. The ABC has a long legacy of nurturing Australian music from our earliest radio and television programs through to triple j and Unearthed, the only music station to play 100% independent Australian acts. The ABC also is well known for documenting the history of Australian music, including recent programs on The Go-Betweens and The Saints.  
 In 2017 we were approached by the producer of *Descent into the Maelstrom*. Both the ABC acquisitions team and I have watched the program and I agree with their view that the documentary does not meet the standards we require for broadcast. This decision is no reflection on the band nor the producer – this was clearly a labour of love for him.  
 The ABC is required to make these type of editorial decisions all of the time, and I am sure you will respect this decision. The ABC will continue to be a champion for Australian music and we have a number of exciting initiatives coming up, including for Ausmusic month – which we will kick off with a special *Spicks and Specks* reunion show. I would be pleased to discuss these programs with you at any time.  
 Yours sincerely,  
 David Anderson  
 Director Entertainment & Specialist



s 22

P s 22  
 M s 22  
 F s 22 @abc.net.au