

Statement from an ABC spokesperson:

Planet Extra Podcast was conceived in 2020 as a complementary vehicle to promote ABC News' Planet America program and content. It included extended interviews and other material from the program. This was with the knowledge and approval of ABC News managers at the time.

Chas has at times used ABC facilities to create the podcast on the basis it was a promotional activity benefiting the program and the ABC. Chas's ABC News managers were aware of this. A Facebook page was also created with the knowledge of News.

Media Watch has identified the increasing ambiguity over time between what is ABC and non-ABC content in relation to the podcast and Facebook page. This, and the use of ABC resources, needs to be better clarified and will be resolved through discussions between the ABC and Chas.

In October 2024 Chas began offering branded PEP merchandise. He made clear any money generated was to support producing the podcast. Until further notice he will remove any references to the merchandise and the podcast won't be promoted on Planet America. The podcast is no longer produced using ABC facilities.

We highly value Chas's contribution to Planet America, his hard work and his passion. He has been central to Planet America's success and we appreciate his contribution over a long period of time.