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Statement from journalist Margaret Simons

The video editing on the Panorama program was a bad mis-step. Trump deserves condemnation for the way he handled events on that day, but he did not urge people to "fight" in the context that the edit suggested. To distort people's words in this way is the essence of misinformation, and we very much need professional journalists to do better.

But the idea that the BBC is systematically biased is nuts. There is a reason it is the most trusted media organisation in the UK, as the ABC is in Australia. That is because public broadcasters rightly hold themselves to high standards. All the more disappointing when they fall short.

We have a wave of populism consuming the western world. Populist politicians like simple, partisan narratives. They have a vested interest in attacking full and fair reporting. Sadly, they have apparently gained influence over the BBC board, and the Panorama edit has given them ammunition, which they are using.

Predictably, their local counterparts are trying to make this a strike against the ABC. They should chill. The ABC is certainly not perfect, but it has clean hands in this case.

But there are lessons for Australia. There have been times in the ABC's past when its board has included political activists who were hostile to the ABC. Appointing such people was, at the very least, careless of the government.

Public broadcasting is an investment in keeping the nation informed and, ultimately, governable. Public broadcasters deserve scrutiny, but should also be treated as a key national asset.

Media organisations have to be robust and defend their journalists when they stir controversy. They should also be quick to acknowledge when they have got it wrong. In practice that can be a difficult balance to strike. It is terribly shortsighted to use a mistake, or even a series of mistakes, to attack the whole enterprise of public broadcasting.