

[REDACTED]

From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 16 October 2025 10:47 am
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update

Section 9(2)(g)(i) - free and frank

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[The Platform vs The Broadcasting Standards Authority](#)

The Platform 15/10/25

Sean Plunket comments re: The Platform vs the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. Asserts the **BSA** has no jurisdiction over The Platform. Says woke bureaucrats are trying to shut down free speech and expand regulatory reach without reference to parliament, whose job it is to decide who is covered.

[Broadcasting Standards Authority expands jurisdiction to online radio](#)

Mike Hosking Breakfast (audio) 16/10/25

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** (BSA) has issued a provisional decision claiming jurisdiction over a complaint about an online radio show. Mike Hosking discusses the decision with BSA chief executive Stacey Wood.

[Broadcasting Standards Authority v The Platform - businessman Troy Bowker says he will help fund legal action to support Sean Plunket](#)

NZ Herald 16/10/25

A high-profile businessman and media firm shareholder says he will help fund legal action to fight the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**'s attempt to haul an online audio platform into its jurisdiction. And the BSA also appears to have bought itself a political fight, with coalition Government parties NZ First and Act criticising its plans to adjudicate a complaint about Sean Plunket's The Platform...BSA chief executive Stacey Wood said the BSA's jurisdiction had always been determined by the Broadcasting Act. "We have no intention of acting outside the act – our view is that online broadcasting that resembles a traditional TV or radio station falls within our existing jurisdiction."

[Winston Peters accuses broadcasting watchdog of 'Soviet era stasi' censorship](#)

Stuff 15/10/25

Winston Peters has accused the broadcasting watchdog of "Soviet era stasi" censorship after it revealed it was looking to widen its remit to include online media networks. The **Broadcasting**

Standards Authority (BSA) currently only considers complaints about programmes on TV and radio, as well as with online and on-demand content that's previously been broadcast. "Why does the Broadcasting Standards Authority think they can make up their own rules in secret meetings to act like some Soviet era stasi," Peters said in a social media post...**BSA** chief executive Stacey Wood, while not commenting on the specifics of the draft decision, told The Post it was acting within the bounds of the Broadcasting Act in considering the complaint... "The best and clearest solution lies in legislative reform of media regulation, which we've called for for over 15 years."

[BSA defends approaching The Platform after complaint over Plunket's 'mumbo jumbo' comment](#)

Chris Lynch Media 15/10/25

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has defended its decision to engage with online broadcaster The Platform after receiving a complaint about comments made by Sean Plunket referring to tikanga Māori as "mumbo jumbo."...The **BSA** issued a provisional interlocutory decision confirming it would proceed with the complaint, the first time it has accepted jurisdiction over an online-only broadcaster. The Authority said it considered The Platform's livestreamed talkback programme to fall within the Broadcasting Act's definition of "broadcasting."

[Government allows advertising to be broadcast on Christmas, Sundays](#)

RNZ 15/10/25

The government says scrapping advertising restrictions for broadcasters on Sundays and some public holidays could generate a multimillion-dollar annual boost for the industry. Media and Communications Minister Paul Goldsmith said new legislation passed its third reading in Parliament on Tuesday...Goldsmith said the move would make the media sector more competitive. The restrictions had become "increasingly redundant" as more audiences turned to streaming platforms such as YouTube, Goldsmith said.

[Revealed: Surge in complaints upheld by TVNZ, CEO's bonus for cost targets; Pizza, cannabis don't mix – ad watchdog](#)

NZ Herald 10/10/25

TVNZ's annual report reveals a surge in upheld content complaints, multimillion-dollar redundancy costs and the CEO's bonus on the back of a financial turnaround. Meanwhile, a top screen industry chief executive has resigned, and Hell Pizza finds distasteful a watchdog decision about one of its Doobious pizza ads.

[TVNZ trial: Judge probes media's duty to run fair responses](#)

Newsroom 14/10/25

A journalism leader is broadly backing TVNZ for its practices in investigating food processor Talley's over safety issues – and has faced precise questions from the trial judge over fairness and responsible reporting...Justice Jagose noted the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** had said that for controversial issues, media needed to present disputed views and Ellis replied Talley's had clearly done so.

[Journalist ejected from Human Rights Review Tribunal hearing under 'contempt of court' claim](#)

NZ Herald 12/10/25

An experienced journalist is barred from a tribunal hearing into a long-running dispute involving Wellington's Pride festival organisers and a lesbian group. Other media have been allowed to cover the case. What's going on?... The Justice Ministry referred the Herald to the Courts of NZ website, which contains the definition of 'accredited media': "To meet the CPA 2011 definition of a 'member of the media', your media organisation must be subject to a code of ethics and the complaints procedure of the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** or the Media Council."

Pinned



Sean Plunket
@SeanPlunket

Subscribe



It seems after 3 years the wokesters are coming for us. Get ready to fight for freedom.

The Platform NZ @theplatform_nz · 21h

The Platform will resist any attempt by agencies of state to censor, restrict or inhibit the freedom of speech of its hosts, guests or audience. Watch this space!

Last edited 12:36 PM · Oct 14, 2025 · **10.3K** Views

26

22

231

2



Post your reply

Reply



Gavin S @plainclever · 18h
better change yr tune on a few things then

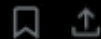


2



1

375



VJM Publishing @VJM Pub · 18h



They've been coming for me for years, would love to talk to you about it sometime

Trade Me sells 'It's Okay To Be White' T-shirts




22/05/2019



Scott Palmer





UK, NZ Pete    @Pete20221 · 1h
 @PaulGoldsmithMP @chrisluxonmp @actparty @winstonpeters


Time to rope the BSA in pal, or you will lose every conservative voter who currently listens to @theplatform_nz @BSA_NZ



UK, NZ Pete    @Pete20221 · 2h
 @SeanPlunket @theplatform_nz @BSA_NZ

Sean, technically you are correct. Mumbo Jumbo describes maori tikanga perfectly.

Dictionary
 Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) [Learn more](#)



 **mumbo jumbo**
 /ˈmʌmbəʊ ˈdʒʌmbəʊ/

noun **INFORMAL**

language or ritual causing or intended to cause confusion or bewilderment.
 "a maze of legal mumbo jumbo"

Similar: nonsense gibberish claptrap balderdash blether blether

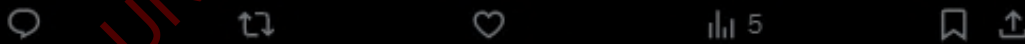


UK, NZ Pete    @Pete20221 · 2h
 @BSA_NZ What are you trying to do to @theplatform_nz ?
 @SeanPlunket

You have No jurisdiction & have over reached on a monumental basis.

"They have sown the wind, they shall reap the whirlwind."

Hosea 8.7



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UK, NZ Pete @Pete20221 · 2h



@BSA_NZ What are you trying to do to @theplatform_nz ?
@SeanPlunket

You have No jurisdiction & have over reached on a monumental basis.

“They have sown the wind, they shall reap the whirlwind.”

Hosea 8.7



5



2h

UK, NZ Pete followed you



Worshiper of Coffee @caffeineworship · 2h



So the @BSA_NZ are coming after free speech in New Zealand by way of censoring and considering complaints directed at online streaming platforms. @NZFreeSpeech @PaulGoldsmithMP @winstonpeters @dbseymour



71



The Daily Psyop NZ - Reading /here/ @Psyop_Nz · Oct 13



Replying to @NZMAGAMike

Sadly out @NZHumanRights is enabling this racism instead of challenging it, and our Media Minister and @BSA_NZ are not doing their jobs either.



113



The Egalitarian Rex Landy - We are Us @disssdisinfo · Oct 6



Replying to @aniobrien

@PaulGoldsmithMP @chrisluxonmp and @BSA_NZ have all supported the current malaise, as did @nzlabour before them.

No wonder trust in legacy media is collapsed. Government has done NOTHING to hold them to account.



139



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The Platform NZ
@theplatform_nz



The Platform will resist any attempt by agencies of state to censor, restrict or inhibit the freedom of speech of its hosts, guests or audience. Watch this space!

12:31 PM · Oct 14, 2025 · 11K Views

18

8

117



Post your reply

Reply



plainjane @plainjane130632 · 17h



I think the platform is in a spot of bother . Joking about domestic violence stirring up racism towards maori, verbally attacking people they disagree with calling dolphins the Down syndrome kids ffs . Seans' apologies are empty .

It is time for NZ to make it compulsory to

[Show more](#)

1



1

161



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Drew Ward @DrewWard2025 · 18h

Sean shouting over his guests & calling them cooks is his own personal censorship



227



FUBAR nz @NzFubar · 19h

Meanwhile @SeanPlunket shuts down anyone he disagrees with whilst calling them cooks 🤡



492



Joanne Wilkes @aucklandaussie · 16h

Plunket had to apologise on screen for maligning Ani O'Brien's lawyer Barbara Buckett.



137



The Good Guy 🙌 @ShortStoryTell · 21h

🤡 you are your own worst enemies - they can just sit back and watch.



763



Len Matthews @LenMatthews8 · 19h

Where is Rodney Hyde? Where is Paul Brennan?



389





Graeme Edgeler @GraemeEdgeler · 2m



Replying to @EricCrampton @BSA_NZ and @theplatform_nz

Here's the BSA's list of Broadcasters

bsa.govt.nz/broadcasters/b...

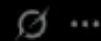
What makes you think they think they have jurisdiction?
(Eg I can't see a decision on their site naming The Platform)



bsa.govt.nz
Broadcaster contact details



The Egalitarian Rex Landy - We are Us @disssdisinfo · 26m



Replying to @dpfdpf

I don't mind the @BSA_NZ doing their job. And believe that the Platform is of similar kin to Radio (as is @RCR_NZ).

However, I don't believe that the BSA get to define racism, and I don't get why the BSA is attacking the Platform, when TVNZ, and RNZ are doing even worse and not being pulled up. There's a LOT of racist, anti-white and separatist nonsense being promoted by publicly funded outfits. That's not okay.

The BSA is being selective.

Cc @PaulGoldsmithMP



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Neil Prutton @NeilPrutto56022 · 27m



No they don't have authority over online and they should never be given this recognition.



41



Neil Prutton @NeilPrutto56022 · 33m



This is shocking and they're doing it because we are heading into elections next year. Stay strong and fight for our right to freedom of speech



44



Alastair Sell @AlastairSell · 42m



Watch the protest build



58



Alastair Sell @AlastairSell · 36m



Just like aotearoa !



48



Andre @Andre82112993 · 23m






Let's all start putting complaints in about their shows 🤔 Absolute chn5s the lot of them



25



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Sean Plunket  [@SeanPlunket](#) Subscribe  






Do you think it is up to parliament or regulators to decide who should be subject to media censorship regulations?


Parliament




Regulators




198 votes · 7 hours left




6:16 PM · Oct 14, 2025 · **1,769** Views




 8   2  1 





 Post your reply Reply

 **Cookie McBride** [@cookiemcbride33](#) · 12h  
Neither.

 **Jessica** [@bangonomics](#) · 16h  
I had no idea so take 1 vote off regulators

 **embrace empathy** [@Gumbootson](#) · 12h  
Definitely not the left

 **Barry Johns** [@barry_john35199](#) · 16h  
I would think it has to be both.

 **Responsible Governance**  [@governance52673](#) · 16h  
Neither

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz
W: www.bsa.govt.nz
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[Redacted]

From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 5:04 pm
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [Redacted]; Helen Cruse; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]
Subject: Update

Section 9(2)(g)(i) - free and frank

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Sean Plunket calls for BSA to be disbanded](#)

1News 16/10/25

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA)** says a listener's complaint about The Platform host Sean Plunket is the first that clearly meets the requirements of the Broadcasting Act. Plunket is dismissing the complaint, saying his online platform does not fall within its jurisdiction. He said the BSA had "woefully and egregiously overstepped its bounds" and was calling for the regulator to be "disbanded". The authority is defending the decision, saying "everybody wants to have a reaction, but it seems like nobody wants to read the Act", and it has long held the position that online broadcasts are included within its remit.

[What is broadcasting – and who decides?](#)

RNZ Mediawatch 19/10/25

Includes a detailed outline of **BSA** position and strong resulting public reactions. Opposing legal views by retired judge David Harvey and barrister Steven Price are presented. The Government's February reform discussion document is outlined, with a comment from the Minister that no final decisions have been made. Goldsmith acknowledges BSA's move may end up in court, "I'm happy to let that flow through the system and see how it goes"... "I don't think free speech in New Zealand is going to collapse if we address change in the nature of how the media operates then consider what the impact is on the BSA". Labour broadcasting spokesperson Reuben Davidson says the government has been too slow with reform. If he becomes minister, would he be happy for the BSA to oversee online platforms like Reality Check Radio and The Platform? "I think as an interim step... but it makes it clear how important it is that we get effective and updated legislation in place to allow for a regulator to be across the increasing content that is sitting in those online spaces".

[Is the BSA going too far — or just doing its job? \[selectively paywalled, may not open\]](#)

The Post 16/10/25

A former District Court judge and media law expert says the Broadcasting Standards Authority would be wrong to assert its jurisdiction over internet media networks and should be stopped by the Government. The BSA has been accused of overreach but says its proposed decision wouldn't set a precedent. It's clear the issue won't go away anytime soon.

[Sean Plunket pushes back as BSA claims jurisdiction over online comment](#)

Newstalk ZB 16/10/25

Broadcaster Sean Plunket isn't going down without a fight, as our broadcasting watchdog claims jurisdiction over his online-only company The Platform. Interview with Heather du Plessis Allan.

[Former Judge David Harvey And Media Lawyer Steven Price Debate The BSA vs The Platform](#)

The Platform 20/10/25

Live debate: Sean Plunket talks to former judge David Harvey and media lawyer Steven Price about the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** vs The Platform.

[ACT considers bill to abolish Broadcasting Standards Authority](#) [*selectively paywalled, may not open*]

The Post 17/10/25

The ACT Party is considering a private member's bill that would see the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** (BSA) abolished. At this point, no bill has been drafted and there's no guarantee it would be drawn from Parliament's biscuit tin in this term. However, the party's public service spokesperson, Todd Stephenson, has urged Broadcasting Minister Paul Goldsmith to consider intervening earlier.

[Media Insider: \[including...\] BSA goes rogue – is it a deliberate strategy?](#)

NZ Herald 17/10/25

Opinion - There is no doubt that media regulation needs to be tidied up – social media is a wild west, and there are inconsistencies across the industry more generally. But there's a right way and a wrong way to sort the mess out. On the face of it, the BSA has elected the wrong way – but it might also be a deliberate strategy to force the Government's hand on legislative changes.

['Self-serving' and 'naïve': why the Broadcasting Standards Authority has no jurisdiction over the internet](#)

David Harvey blog (also published in Law News) 16/10/25

For many years it has been accepted that Internet based “radio” platforms like The Platform and Reality Check Radio have not been subject to the jurisdiction of the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. The BSA has challenged that accepted understanding. There are problems with the approach the BSA has adopted. First, the optics are not good. If the BSA upholds its “provisional” opinion the clear picture is that the BSA pre-determined the matter. Secondly the BSA suggests it is looking at broadcasting from a purposive perspective. But it ignores a considerable contrary position that it has no jurisdiction over Internet “radio”.

[The Broadcasting Standards Authority is right](#)

Media Law Journal (Steven Price blog) 16/10/25

The **BSA** has agreed to consider a complaint against internet-based radio station The Platform...Plunket says the BSA might “take and investigate complaints on anyone who puts anything on the internet.” Bollocks. The BSA is just doing its job. The Broadcasting Act regulates broadcasters. The definition of broadcaster seems clearly to include an internet-based station that livestreams to a large audience. It does not include podcasters that require downloads. It doesn't include videos posted on YouTube for download. It doesn't include anyone on the internet who's not livestreaming to a public audience.

Broadcasting Standards Must Protect All New Zealanders – Regardless Of Platform

Rights Aotearoa media release 16/10/25

Rights Aotearoa commends BSA for closing regulatory loophole. Rights Aotearoa today welcomed the **Broadcasting Standards Authority's** decision to apply broadcasting standards to internet-based broadcasters, calling it an overdue step toward ensuring all New Zealanders are protected from harmful broadcast content regardless of transmission method.

Mumbo-schmumbo from the BSA

The Daily Blog 20/10/25

The letter to The Platform from the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** resembles an April Fools gag. The blatant breach of natural justice in trying to hold someone to account who could not possibly have known they were within that jurisdiction, is itself mumbo jumbo...It is, in short, the judicial version of the ethics and standards that Sean Plunket's live show seems to be running on...Is this about standards to protect NZ from harm, or their own bureaucratic survival?

UK: BBC sanctioned over Gaza documentary for 'serious' broadcasting breach

ITVX 17/10/25

The BBC has been found to have committed a “serious breach” of broadcasting rules after failing to disclose that the narrator of a documentary on Gaza was the son of a Hamas official, UK watchdog Ofcom has ruled.


Chinese broadcaster failed to pay Ofcom £300,000 for rule breaches, court told

PA media 17/10/25

A Chinese broadcaster has failed to pay Ofcom £300,000 in fines years after being found to have committed “serious and repeated” breaches of broadcasting rules, the High Court has been told. Star China Media Limited (SCML) previously ran an English-language news channel named China Global Television Network (CGTN), formerly known as CCTV News, but was stripped of its licence in February 2021. Ofcom found that SCML did not have “editorial responsibility” for CGTN's news service, which was instead “controlled by a body which is ultimately controlled by the Chinese Communist Party”.

Helen Clark 
 @HelenClarkNZ



1. #NZ's integrity institutions need to be strengthened, not weakened. @BSA_NZ has long played an important role in upholding professional standards in broadcast media. There is a case for bespoke regulation for #socialmedia & search platforms. 



From thepost.co.nz

9:38 PM · Oct 18, 2025 · 3,563 Views

2

35

109

3



You can reply

Accounts @HelenClarkNZ follows or mentioned can reply



Post your reply

Reply

Helen Clark  @HelenClarkNZ · Oct 18



2. @HelenClarkFound reported on issues of how to reduce spread of harmful content on social networks some years ago. Model of bespoke regulation suggested in this report is worth considering. helenclark.foundation/publications-a...



Sean Plunket reposted



The Redbaiter @TheRedbaiter · 21h

"If I worried about criticism, I'd never get out of bed in the morning."

So says Broadcasting Minister Paul "yes man" Goldsmith as he reveals he is unmoved by public alarm over the Broadcasting Standards Authority's recent move to regulate free speech on the internet.

Goldsmith has stated he's happy for NZ's notoriously liberal/ progressive courts to decide the legitimacy of this move. We know what the outcome of that will be and so does Mr Goldsmith.

Meanwhile his Labour counterpart, shadow Broadcasting Minister Reuben Davidson is even less impressive-

"It makes it clear how important it is that we get effective and updated legislation in place to allow for a regulator to be across the increasing content that is sitting in those online spaces - and currently a lot of it is going unchecked."

All proposed legislation is meant to be tested against the Bill of Rights, which guarantees our right to express opinions. The BSA's move to prosecute Sean Plunket for opining that Tikanga is "mumbo jumbo" is a clear breach of the BOR.

That neither National or Labour give a damn about this is why we must stop voting for the purple parties.

As Farage's Reform party is eclipsing the old parties in the UK, so we must seek out a similar alternative here in New Zealand.

Voting purple has had its day.





Free Speech Union @NZFreeSpeech - Oct 18

Are you happy to let the Broadcasting Standards Authority police the internet?



28 32 144 3K



Sean Plunket @SeanPlunket - Oct 18

Is Tikanga mumbo jumbo?



761 votes - Final results

31 22 59 4.1K



Sean Plunket @SeanPlunket - Oct 17

if you don't like the rubbish on the BHN here's a way to get some satisfaction

Pat Brittenden @patbrittenden - Oct 17
Replying to @SeanPlunket
Well Sean, you first need to send us ur specific complaint, why you think we're in breach citing date and time.
Contact details on the website

16 5 54 5.7K



Sean Plunket @SeanPlunket - Oct 17

Dear BSA o presume you think these two are broadcasters?

Pat Brittenden @patbrittenden - Oct 17
#BHN Chris Bishop is the preferred leader for National and lots of people behind the scene, associated with National, say 'Luxon is done'
#nzipol #nzpolitics



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Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



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[REDACTED]

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Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2025 11:46 am
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update

[Minister hints at online radio stations being subject to broadcasting laws](#)

Stuff 21/10/25

Online radio stations and TV news shows could soon be regulated in the same way as terrestrial broadcasters currently are. Media and Communications Minister Paul Goldsmith said the likes of The Platform, Reality Check Radio, and Herald Now are currently not covered by the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** (BSA), even though some competitors are. “It’s not obvious to me why one group of people who are broadcasting in a very similar way should be subject to the BSA and another group shouldn’t be,” he said.

[Minister comments: “two options” over BSA and regulation of online broadcasters](#)

Newstalk ZB Mike Hosking Breakfast 22/10/25 [Audio – Comments from 2:54]

In an interview about changes to foreshore and seabed laws, Minister Goldsmith is asked about online broadcasters. He notes **BSA** has asserted jurisdiction “into internet providers who are doing a thing similar to radio”. Says there’s a much broader discussion to be had. It no longer makes sense why one group would be regulated and others wouldn’t...eg political podcasts vs radio...We already have a process reviewing that. There’s two basic options – you could extend the reach of the BSA to covering all things that look similar. Or you could just get rid of it entirely, and say the world’s moved on...That is one of the options and we’re working through this and giving it careful thought. It’s an outdated Act. No one’s got around to dealing with it, and we are going to deal with it.

[The BSA vs The Platform will be a generationally important battle](#)

The Spinoff 21/10/25 (Including podcast episode)

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority**’s decision to claim jurisdiction over the internet forces us to pick one of two wildly different directions, writes Duncan Greive...With this one move, the BSA has forced the government to come right out and say what has been clear for decades now: that the internet is a wild west, where anything goes...TVNZ told The Spinoff it favours a self-regulatory regime. It also thinks “all media should be subject to the same standards”. There are only two ways to achieve that. One would be a new Ofcom-style super regulator, the kind the DIA was leaning towards but has been explicitly ruled out. The other is by ending our current regulatory regime entirely.

In The Spinoff’s [podcast episode](#) Duncan Greive discusses the issue with former WBD boss Glen Kyne. Greive says the **BSA**’s action is a “bold and principled thing to do”, taking what’s potentially an existential risk by bringing into focus the obsolescence of existing legislation in the internet era. Kyne talks about the resources media organisations need to devote to standards compliance, and the need for a level playing field.

[Just what is broadcasting?](#)

Otago Daily Times 21/10/25

Editorial – What makes this dispute so messy is that The Platform, unlike – arguably – most other organisations recognised as broadcasters, is an undeniable and unapologetic vehicle for its host’s political and social views. Any attempt to stymie or circumscribe Plunket’s ability to say whatever he likes runs the risk of looking partisan...Plunket has an argument that he should not have had to be cognisant of the **BSA** broadcast guidelines while streaming on The Platform, given he was unaware that he was subject to them. But, equally, a void remains for some arbiter of appropriate and responsible behaviour by disseminators of opinion and information on the internet, as there is on radio, television and print media. It is long past time that the government should have considered this.

[BSA’s mission creep could prove to be its nemesis](#)

Knightly Views (Gavin Ellis blog) 21/10/25

The New Zealand **Broadcasting Standards Authority** may be about to learn that mission creep never ends well. Its provisional decision to claim jurisdiction over Sean Plunket’s online entity The Platform has far-reaching implications...By my reading, the BSA has ignored a strong precedent (of its own making) that runs counter to its latest decision, and it dates from within the digital age...The senior member of the current administration has shown almost no interest in meaningful reform of a media sector facing enormous challenges. A dismissive reaction to their concerns over mission creep may see New Zealand First and ACT telling National to up its game.

[The battle for the Broadcasting Standards Authority](#)

Law News 22/10/25 (Republished from The Conversation)

The **BSA** standards are not randomly imposed by an “Orwellian” bureaucracy. They reflect professional industry practices, community values and the public interest. Regulatory measures that uphold fundamental standards such as balance, accuracy and fairness do not undermine democracy and freedom of expression, but underpin it. One might disagree with the BSA’s decisions, but such standards should not be discarded lightly... The BSA may not be perfect, but the principle that media operators should be held accountable – not to government, but to the public interest – is sound.

[More than 2000 Kiwis urge Minister to stop 'BSA power grab' over online media](#)

Chris Lynch Media 20/10/25

More than 2,000 New Zealanders have written to Media and Communications Minister Paul Goldsmith urging him to stop the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** from expanding its powers to regulate online media, the Free Speech Union says. The growing backlash follows the BSA’s provisional decision asserting it has jurisdiction over The Platform, despite the outlet operating online.

[Technology is leaving the law's ability to police media rules in its dust](#)

The Press 21/10/25

OPINION: The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** (BSA) has surely bitten off more than it can chew by trying to broaden its remit. With so much media content shifting to newer platforms, far beyond terrestrial and satellite television bands and AM/FM radio frequencies, the BSA is in a battle for its survival. Its authority is steadily diminishing, and this taxpayer-funded entity is facing an existential struggle to remain relevant. But to try and argue that it has jurisdiction over digital-only content such as Sean Plunket’s The Platform is absolute over-reach.

[Should we regulate all kinds of broadcasting – or nothing at all?](#)

The Spinoff 22/10/25

As Sean Plunket and his backers vow to fight the **BSA**, calls are growing to either build a super-regulator for the online age or abolish the agency entirely, writes Catherine McGregor in today’s

extract from The Bulletin. The government appears poised to revisit long-shelved reforms to media regulation as a political storm gathers around the Broadcasting Standards Authority.

[National risks losing support over the BSA empire grab](#)

Kiwiblog 21/10/25

Trust in legacy media keeps dropping. Those on the centre right especially think they do not get a fair go from legacy media... The Platform, Chris Lynch, RCR etc have found a niche where issues that are taboo for other media can get reported on and discussed. And now we have a government quango, with the apparent support of the Minister, doing their best to destroy them...This is (in my opinion) part of why National is losing support to other parties on the centre right. They simply don't seem to care.

[Sean Plunket, the Boomer trying to play in the dirt with the Slop Tubers](#)

Big Hairy Network 21/10/25

Sean Plunket's **BSA** meltdown continues over the weekend as he says he's not a broadcaster, while claiming he is one in his bios, claims The Platform is not a radio station while claiming it does 'talk radio' and we'll also cover off Plunket's remarkable hypocrisy of attending to inundate BHN with BSA complaint by setting his flying monkeys on us.

UK: [Ofcom updates guidance around politicians presenting news](#)

Ofcom media release 20/10/25

Ofcom has issued new guidance to broadcasters about politicians presenting news, following consultation. The guidance reflects the modern news landscape and sets guardrails for broadcasters who use politicians as presenters in programmes that include news. Specifically, our revised guidance explains the interaction between our due accuracy and due impartiality in news rule (5.1 under the Broadcasting Code), and the rule which prevents politicians from presenting news programmes (5.3). It also updates the definition of 'politician' to provide greater clarity.

International: [Artificial Intelligence not reliable news source, European media study says](#)

RNZ 22/10/25

Artificial intelligence assistants, such as ChatGPT, make errors about half the time, when asked about news events, according to a vast study by European public broadcasters. The mistakes include confusing news with parody, getting dates wrong or simply inventing events...Three of the four widely-used platforms looked at wrongly named the reigning Pope.



The Platform NZ
 @theplatform_nz



In a major development [@chrisluxonmp](#) says he has sympathy for the position [@SeanPlunket](#) is in after what appears to be “overreach” by the BSA. The broadcasting minister is now actively reviewing the matter.

5:32 PM · Oct 20, 2025 · **7,091** Views

15

16

144

1



Post your reply

Reply



Holyhekatuiteka @2ETEKA · 13h



Only took him a week of gauging public opinion, a soft cock cop out reply from Goldsmith, outrage on social media, junior Nat backbenchers to take to media and agree with Labour MP’s that we need controls on what is said on the internet, and some dire poll results for face on a [Show more](#)

Advisors, is it safe yet to have an opinion?



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John Watson @JohnWat15978131 · 11h

They know that the BSA have backed the wrong horse on this one. They will retreat, lick their wounds and have another crack

1 94



plainjane @plainjane130632 · 14h

Goldsmith was already going to look into what is considered broadcasting . Luxo is so sick of plonkers whiny carryon he said nice words to stop plonker from banging on to every single person he's ever met .

1 284



ErnieK @erniek10 · 12h

My complaint to the BSA regarding denigration of Advance Australia Fair on Seven Sharp on 13th September 2017 was answered with "it was an humorous rendition." So-called "humorous" renditions are denigrations.

1 88



Jonno L @JonnoL32552677 · 12h

Luxon is giving it neat-to-zero steer, leaving the dithery timid Goldsmith to carry all the weight of the decision. "Appears to be overreach" is as wishy-washy as you can be.

3 128



? @Makariotrack · 15h

reasonable question is, does NZ now have an eKaren?

One that is looking to facilitate kiwis into the globalist digital prison, "for our safety"

12 454



Francesca t @Frances84674307 · 11h

About time

1 70



gigi @Ghvtmc · 10h

Keep up the pressure we desperately need the platform

43

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Hi [REDACTED]

So, how was your morning?

To [quote](#) the Broadcasting Standards Authority's head Stacey Wood, mine was "A tad hysterical".

I woke up to learn that I'm not only the Chief Executive of New Zealand's most effective civil liberties organisation, but apparently also a *media mogul*. A regular Rupert Murdoch... minus his pay check!

According to the BSA website, the NZ Free Speech Union was classed as a broadcaster, and therefore our words were subject to *their scrutiny*.

Pull the other one!

This all started when Free Speech warrior and friend of the union Gaylene Barnes, the director of *River of Freedom* (and a panel guest at our upcoming Christchurch AGM, [make sure you book now!](#)) - stumbled on something unsettling on the BSA website online complaints form. The NZ Free Speech Union was on their dropdown list of *broadcasters*. 🤔

So, what on earth were we doing there?

Sean Plunket, at the centre of this storm after the BSA announced they would be investigating *The Platform* (despite the internet being well out of their remit) contacted the BSA to ask what was going on, and received this response from Stacey Wood:

"Thanks for bringing an error on our website to our attention. A drop-down list on our online complaints form mistakenly listed some organisations that are clearly not broadcasters, including the Free Speech Union.

This drop-down list is derived from information about complaints and enquiries that have previously been lodged through our existing online complaints system. In a very small number of cases, organisations that have been mentioned in complaints or enquiries, but were not the broadcaster complained about, were mistakenly entered in the system as the broadcaster.

These organisations, including the Free Speech Union, are clearly not broadcasters and we have now removed them from the list.

Please note that the drop-down list is not exhaustive and it is not updated in real-time."

Following this email, our name disappeared from the list – phew, off the hook! 🤨

An “admin error.” Apparently, someone at the BSA tripped, fell and face-planted their keyboard which loaded in the NZ Free Speech Union – and several other non-broadcasters into their system?

Also curious is who wasn't on their list. No *The Platform*, *Reality Check Radio*, *Chris Lynch Media*, *The Working Group*, *BHN (DOC Studios)*, *The Dom Harvey Podcast*, and *Brodie Kane Media*, all genuine voices in the independent media space, *completely absent*. Yet, the NZ Free Speech Union?

Funny. Until you realise it isn't. Are these the actions of a politically neutral statutory body?

[REDACTED]

From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 12:33 pm
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update

Latest update FYI....

[The Fold: An explosive week of media scandals](#)

The Spinoff (podcast) 18/11/25

A leaked report into scams at Meta has revealed the breathtaking scale of its criminal enterprise. Meanwhile the BBC is dealing with the epic fallout from an editing error, and Australia is back in the business of getting big tech to pay for content. Locally, Sky has made a sharp change to its basic channel strategy, and Stuff is dealing with some deeply troublesome real estate drama.

[ACT looks to abolish **Broadcasting Standards Authority**](#)

Stuff 16/11/25

The ACT Party has lodged a member's bill that would see the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** abolished. The Broadcasting (Disestablishment of Broadcasting Standards Authority) Amendment Bill was lodged by ACT MP Laura McClure, arguing the BSA had "outlived its usefulness" and, in a free country, the ultimate broadcasting standard should be the judgment of the audience...Broadcasting Minister Paul Goldsmith was unavailable for comment today, but a spokesperson told The Post he would not comment further as the bill had yet to be discussed at caucus.

[Winston Peters interview – The Platform](#)

The Platform 20/11/25 [Audio – starting from 9:12]

In an interview, Winston Peters says ACT is taking the wrong approach by trying to abolish the BSA. Says when the BSA has acted within its existing mandate it was "fine, and many of us have been the beneficiary of making complaints and getting a successful outcome" ...Says legal authority with respect to online broadcasters doesn't sit in NZ but in the US...Suggests a government-initiated judicial review as a way of resolving the matter while sparing The Platform legal costs. "The BSA is not the problem – the BSA should be told 'get back in your cage and stay there'." Pressed by Sean Plunket, Peters says he'll mention the idea of a government-initiated judicial review to Minister Goldsmith, "but I can't do everyone's job".

[ACT's member's bill to disestablish the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** w/ the Victoria University of Wellington's Peter Thompson](#)

bFM 19/11/25

ACT MP Laura McClure has launched a member's bill, proposing the disestablishment of the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. This follows a complaint laid to the BSA regarding Sean Plunket's online media network, The Platform. Plunket says the BSA "woefully and egregiously overstepped its bounds". The BSA says Plunket's show clearly meets the requirements of the Act. We spoke to Peter Thompson, an Associate Media and Communications Professor at Victoria University of Wellington and board member of the Better Public Media Trust, about what this member's bill is proposing. Thompson references the government's Media Reform proposals and says it would "make perfect sense" to extend the BSA's jurisdiction to cover online media.

[From the Beehive: Why the BSA has outlived its purpose](#) [Selectively paywalled – may not open]

The Press 15/11/25

Opinion – ACT MP Todd Stephenson: Some agencies made sense once, but don't anymore. The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** is one of them.

[Some useful BSA research](#)

Kiwiblog 18/11/25

While I am not a fan of the **BSA** appointing itself as chief censor of the Internet, I do like some of the research they have produced. The annual survey of offensive words is always interesting, and they have just done a survey about trust in media which is interesting...Looking at the lists of factors that make a news provider trustworthy or untrustworthy, it is no surprise why trust in media is so low.

[Media Insider: Breakfast upheaval – why Jenny-May’s time is up; BBC fallout: TVNZ defends Trump speech edit](#)

NZ Herald 14/11/25

A swift finale for Breakfast host Jenny-May Clarkson – who will sit on the couch and become show’s 32nd host in 2026?; Laura Tupou leaving Three News; Was this TVNZ reference to a major Trump speech fair? How NZ newsrooms are responding to BBC crisis; Jevon McSkimming case – the journalists who overcame legal hurdles; Sales of unauthorised Ardern book.

UK: [BBC apologises to Trump for 2024 documentary but rejects defamation claim](#)

NZ Herald 14/11/25

The British Broadcasting Corporation has said it apologised to President Donald Trump after he threatened to sue the media organisation over an episode of the documentary series Panorama, which he said misleadingly spliced together his remarks on January 6, 2021, to show him explicitly encouraging violence at the US Capitol.

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



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To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update

[C-word upset: Whitcoulls owner reveals why literary magazine has been banned from bookshelves](#)
NZ Herald 24/11/25

A literary magazine's liberal use of the 'c-word' has led to its ban from Whitcoulls' shelves, the bookstore chain owner says. Whitcoulls has come in for criticism from the founder and editor-in-chief of the literary journal Folly, after her publication was removed from the retail chain's shelves last week...The journal, which sells for \$35, is peppered with the f-word while one essay - entitled 'The c***y girls' (Folly does not use asterixes) - focuses on the c-word itself, and how a new generation of young women has commandeered it as a form of empowerment.

[KFC removes 'creepy' hacker campaign after 65 complaints to ASA](#)
NZ Herald 27/11/25

KFC has removed a contentious advertising campaign featuring a "creepy" hacker wearing a Colonel Sanders mask. This has headed off an Advertising Standards Authority investigation into whether it breached advertising rules, after the commercials became one of the most-complained-about campaigns this year. The ASA's complaints board had accepted 65 complaints about the ad, which some people said glorified and trivialised cybercrime.

[Deals that defined the year in local media – plus predictions for 2026](#)
The Spinoff (The Fold) 25/11/25

Trade Me bought into Stuff. Sky acquired Three. Radio's strength continued. Search became complex. AI's impact expanded. 2025 has been another year of rapid change for local media, and in this week's episode of The Fold, Duncan Greive and media agency executives discuss it. The conversation covers all of the above and casts ahead with predictions for 2026.

Australia: [Media regulator needs nuanced powers to rein in Kyle and Jackie O](#)
AFR 25/11/25

Opinion – ACMA's only two options shouldn't be cancelling a licence altogether or toothlessly declaring a breach...It has had about as much success at reining Kyle Sandilands in as Jackie "O" Henderson. Last week, the regulator sparked widespread debate by requesting an independent audit of the Kyle & Jackie O Show's contracts and internal governance. ACMA's previous attempts to corral the Kyle & Jackie O Show – including issuing breach declarations and additional censor requirements – have proven ineffective time and again. An investigation recently found that Australian Radio Network, owner of the KIIS network, had breached decency rules seven times by broadcasting sexual descriptions and crude on-air games on the show.

Australia: [Netflix could face \\$1 billion fine if it falls short on Australian content](#)
Sydney Morning Herald 21/11/25

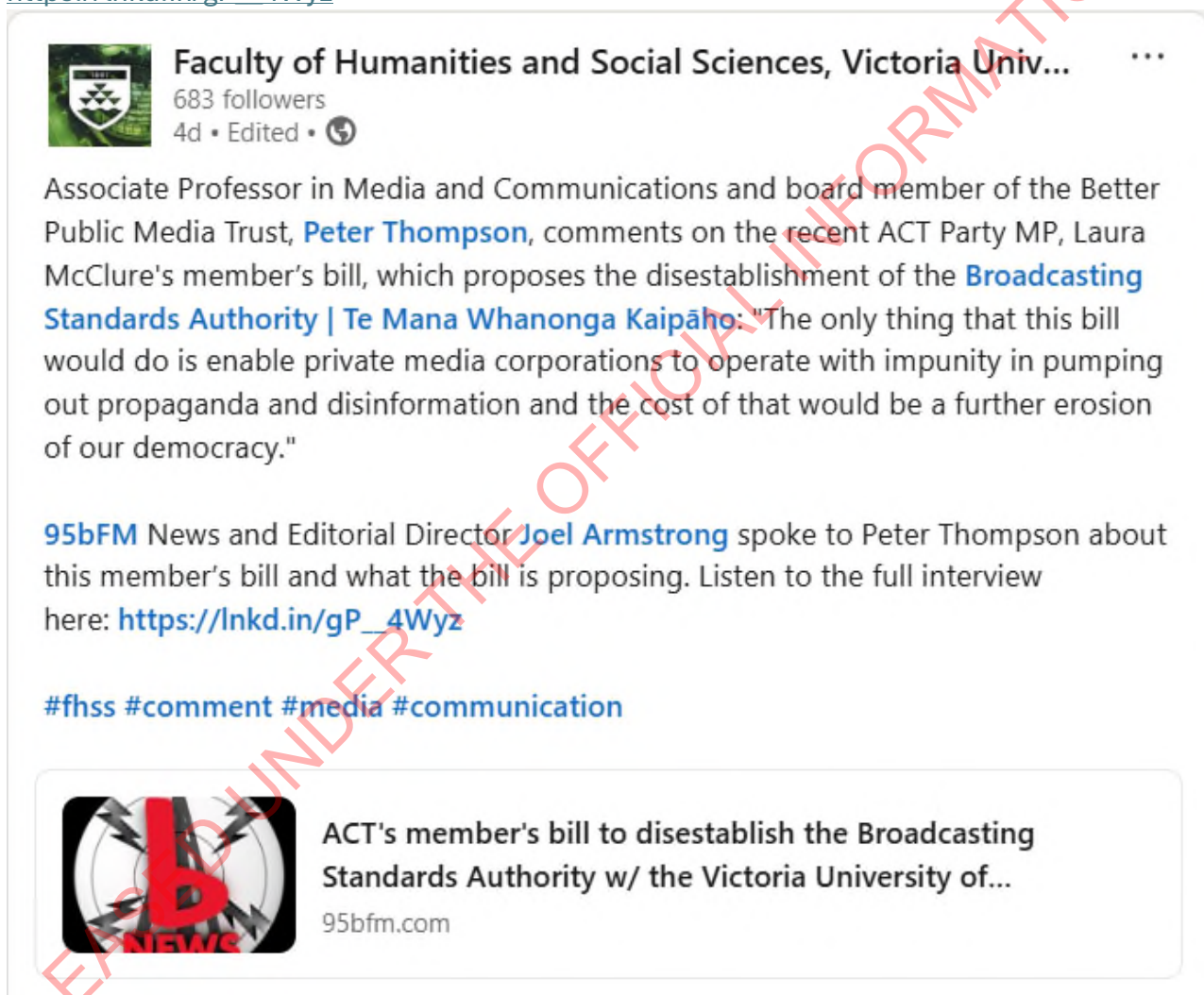
Netflix could be fined almost \$1 billion if it fails to meet local content obligations under the government's proposed streaming quotas bill, which is expected to be tabled in Canberra next week,

after years of debate and negotiation. The amendment to the Broadcasting Services Act, which aims to guarantee a minimum spend by streamers on Australian content other than sport, reality and news, will apply to all subscription video on demand (SVOD) streaming services with more than 1 million subscribers.

UK: [BBC leaders grilled by lawmakers over its standards after Trump threatened to sue](#)
Stuff 25/11/25

The BBC's chairman acknowledged Monday that it was too slow in responding over a misleading edit of a speech by U.S. President Donald Trump but rejected claims that the broadcaster's impartiality was being undermined from within its own board. Senior BBC leaders were quizzed by Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee amid a major crisis at the publicly funded corporation after its director general and head of news both quit earlier this month and Trump threatened to file a billion-dollar lawsuit.

https://lnkd.in/gP_4Wyz




Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Victoria Univ... 683 followers
4d • Edited •

Associate Professor in Media and Communications and board member of the Better Public Media Trust, **Peter Thompson**, comments on the recent ACT Party MP, Laura McClure's member's bill, which proposes the disestablishment of the **Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho**: "The only thing that this bill would do is enable private media corporations to operate with impunity in pumping out propaganda and disinformation and the cost of that would be a further erosion of our democracy."

95bFM News and Editorial Director **Joel Armstrong** spoke to Peter Thompson about this member's bill and what the bill is proposing. Listen to the full interview here: https://lnkd.in/gP_4Wyz

#fhss #comment #media #communication

 **ACT's member's bill to disestablish the Broadcasting Standards Authority w/ the Victoria University of...**
95bfm.com

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

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From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 18 December 2025 10:16 am
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Weekly update

Kia ora koutou

Last update of the year – a catch-up edition covering the past two weeks. Wishing all a happy holiday and Mere Kirihimete!

[Reality Check Radio to have say on BSA decision about online content jurisdiction, as part of complaint](#)

Stuff 10/12/25

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA)** will allow Reality Check Radio (RCR) to submit in writing its views on whether the regulator has jurisdiction over a complaint involving online content with The Platform. This marks a significant development in the BSA's ongoing consideration of its authority over online content. The BSA was an independent Crown entity, and statutory body, that oversaw broadcasting standards. In October, the BSA issued a provisional ruling that it had jurisdiction to handle a complaint against The Platform.

[Journalist Ian Wishart v RNZ and Broadcasting Standards Authority – the High Court case over a story about a run of hot weather in Hamilton](#)

NZ Herald 06/12/25

Investigative journalist and author Ian Wishart is taking RNZ and the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** to the High Court, appealing the authority's decision not to uphold his complaint about an RNZ story on Hamilton's hot weather last summer... Wishart appeared before Justice Gerard van Bohemen in the High Court at Auckland for an interlocutory application. It was a sometimes-testing preliminary encounter, in which the journalist - representing himself - argued for the discovery of RNZ documents he says are central to his appeal.

[TVNZ says Scotty Stevenson's 'sexualised slur' about schoolboys in cricket commentary 'falls short'](#)

Stuff 04/12/25

TVNZ says commentator Scotty Stevenson missed the mark with a "sexualised slur" about Christchurch school boys. During TVNZ's cricket commentary on Wednesday, Stevenson called boys from Christ's College "syrup suckers"...Headmaster Joe Eccleton said he had submitted a complaint to the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**.

[Media Insider: Morning TV, radio shake-up – ex-TV3 hosts in line for new roles; TVNZ commentator's 'syrup-suckers' strife; Meta apologises to model; Sky TV boss named CEO of Year](#)

NZ Herald 05/12/25

TVNZ's Scotty Stevenson has offered an "unequivocal" apology to Christ's College today, after he labelled a group of its students "syrup suckers" during live cricket commentary on Tuesday...Christ's College headmaster Joe Eccleton has written to parents advising that he has laid a complaint with the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. Under **BSA** rules, complaints have to go to the broadcaster first – complainants can then go to the authority if they are unhappy with the response.

[TVNZ bias review - broadcaster releases new discussion points around diversity of perspectives and role of presenters](#)

NZ Herald 15/12/25

A TVNZ-commissioned review into TVNZ news coverage has sounded a general warning that presenters must ensure impartiality and a clear distinction between fact and opinion. The state broadcaster has also been told it needs to ensure “the widest possible diversity of perspectives” and “deeper coverage of key issues”... TVNZ political editor Maiki Sherman presented the results of a political poll on TVNZ's 6pm news in April 2024. This generated several hundred complaints to TVNZ – both it and the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** said the report was fine.

[‘Hit piece’ or honest opinion?: Ex-TVNZ host Peter Williams takes stand for Jim Grenon-backed evangelist against TVNZ](#)

NZ Herald 17/12/25

NZME shareholder and director Jim Grenon is funding a defamation claim brought by Christian evangelist Julian Batchelor against TVNZ. In a day of drama at court, former top TVNZ presenter Peter Williams appears as an expert witness for Batchelor, while the judge later considers throwing the case out... Williams left TVNZ in 2018, before joining MediaWorks as a talkback host. He retired in September 2021 and, “for a very brief interlude”, worked for Reality Check Radio... [TVNZ's lawyer] Daniel Nilsson observed that Reality Check Radio had recently joined a legal action with Sean Plunket's The Platform, pushing against an attempt for it to be covered by the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**, which covers standards such as balance.

[Broadcasting Standards Authority dismisses complaint about The Panel](#)

RNZ 04/12/25

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has not upheld two complaints about a broadcast of The Panel which briefly discussed public perception of the recognition of a Palestinian state.... The complaints were made under several standards and included claims the broadcast was unbalanced for not including comment from Palestinians 'or directly affected individuals', and treated Palestinians unfairly. One of Hart's comments was said to be inaccurate and misleading, and to discriminate against and denigrate Palestinians.

[Media regulation system breaking down?](#)

Media Law Journal (Steven Price blog) 16/12/25

It was bound to happen sooner or later. Complaints are being made to both the Media Council and the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** about basically the same stories. And they're reaching different conclusions... The government's latest recommendation about regulating a converging media (essentially self-regulation with a statutory appeal body, for “professional media” including things like Netflix and The Platform but excluding social media) seems like a pretty sensible reform to me.

[High Court judge dismisses Talley's defamation case against TVNZ](#)

Stuff 17/12/25

A High Court judge has thrown out a defamation case against TVNZ and its reporter after Talley's alleged the company had been defamed in a series of reporting. Talley's - which produces seafood, meat, vegetable and dairy products - alleges Television New Zealand defamed the company in six stories reported by Thomas Mead between 2021 and 2022 about health and safety concerns.

[Cuts to Māori broadcasting loom large as 2025 ends](#)

Waatea News 10/12/25

This week Waatea has been following the story of potential cuts to the Maori media sector. Initially, the cuts were mooted at 30% while some have told Waatea the number is more like 20-25%. Across Aotearoa, Māori media is evolving rapidly. From TV channels to iwi radio, from linear broadcasts to digital streams – the way Māori stories are told and consumed is shifting. But with that shift comes uncertainty, struggle, and a profound reckoning about how best to keep te reo, tikanga and kaupapa Māori alive in media.

[The most popular shows on TVNZ in 2025 and local content's big win on linear TV](#)

NZ Herald 16/12/25

New Zealand's passion for property has been proven once again – this time in our TV viewing habits for 2025. TVNZ has released its list of most-watched shows for the year on TVNZ 1, TVNZ 2 and Duke, and half of the top 10 have a focus on our homes. The Nielsen data also shows audiences are increasingly using linear television to connect with factual content and local stories.

[Prominent rural broadcasters join forces](#)

StopPress 05/12/25

Well-known New Zealand rural broadcasters Andy Thompson and Sarah Perriam-Lampp will join forces to launch an innovative, multimedia rural radio show in 2026. Thompson and Perriam-Lampp have formed a new partnership under CountryWide Media, combining their experience and networks to shape the next generation of rural radio...Thompson and Perriam-Lampp will expand CountryWide Media's national presence with a live-streamed daily radio show broadcast from Christchurch.

UK: [Ofcom fines The Word Network £375000 for breaking broadcasting rules](#)

Ofcom media release 10/12/25

Ofcom has imposed a financial penalty of £375,000 on religious channel, The Word Network, for breaching our broadcasting rules on multiple occasions...Our investigations concluded that the programme Stem Cell Activators made unsubstantiated claims that serious medical conditions could be treated by using certain unlicensed products, which were promoted in the programme. The Peter Popoff programmes promoted and made unsubstantiated claims that using a particular product or contacting a religious ministry were effective in treating serious medical conditions or alleviating financial difficulties.

UK: [From apps to AI search: how the UK goes online in 2025](#)

Ofcom media release 10/12/25

Our latest Online Nation report explores how adults and children in the UK experience life online. From the sites and apps we use every day, to how people feel about what they do and what they encounter online.

[Storytime with Todd: Laura McClure and the Very Bossy Rulebook](#)

ACT via Facebook 13/12/25



Storytime with Todd: Laura McClure and the Very Bossy Rulebook



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RCR Reality Check Radio NZ

4d · 🌐

🔔 Update on Broadcasting Standards Case

RCR has been granted leave to intervene in the BSA's case against The Platform, which centres on whether broadcasting rules can be pushed into the online world. 📺📱🌐

Even though we operate differently from The Platform, the outcome will set a precedent that is likely to impact all independent media.

We sought and obtained "intervenor status" because this case raises important public-interest issues and free-speech concerns, and because any expansion of the BSA's jurisdiction would represent a fast-moving regulatory creep likely to affect our organisation and operations as a digital media platform. 🗣️👥

We have been given until Christmas to file our submissions on the jurisdiction issue. We're represented by former Judge David Harvey, one of NZ's leading experts in tech and media law.

More updates soon. 👁️👁️

NOTE: Intervenor status means we're not a main party to the case, but that we're formally allowed to take part because the outcome is likely to affect us or the public interest. It lets us file submissions so that our perspective is taken into account.

#RCRMedia



👍❤️ 402

52 comments 72 shares

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



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From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2026 1:26 pm
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Weekly update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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["Simply obsolete": BSA seeks legislative change amid evolving media landscape \[Incl. audio of Stacey interview with Mike Hosking\]](#)
Newstalk ZB 28/01/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** says the current laws it operates under are obsolete. A Parliamentary paper on the BSA's annual review notes the watchdog's definition of a broadcaster is 35 years old. The authority says it's been asking for legislation reform for about 15 years, as media companies produce more online content. BSA Chief Executive Stacey Wood told Mike Hosking the jurisdiction framework is not clear.

[Broadcasting Standards Authority calls for law change to deal with 'rapidly evolving' media, expects declining levy revenue](#)
Newstalk ZB 28/01/26

A Parliament report on the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** states the agency believes "the boundaries of its jurisdiction are no longer clear" as it calls for a law change. The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) is calling on MPs to bring about "legislative clarity" to define modern broadcasting, following its contentious consideration of a complaint against an online talk station. A select committee paper relating to a review of the BSA noted the authority had been operating under a 35-year-old definition of the term "broadcasting". Parliament's report also alluded to the row between the media watchdog and Sean Plunket's online-only company The Platform.

["Things have moved on": ACT MP calls for dissolution of BSA](#)
Newstalk ZB Early Edition 28/01/26

An ACT MP wants the Broadcasting Standards Authority to be abolished as the watchdog seeks more power. The authority has been asking for law reform for about 15 years as media companies produce more online content. A Parliamentary paper notes the watchdog operates off a definition of a broadcaster established 35 years ago. ACT's Laura McClure told Ryan Bridge she agrees the world has changed a lot in the past three decades. She says there are many methods of oversight and doesn't believe the BSA is relevant anymore.

[Jillaine Heather – What's On The Radar For FSU This Year?](#)
The Platform 23/01/26

[Discussion re: BSA begins at 2:35]
Free Speech Union's Jillaine Heather talks about what's on the FSU's radar this year. Says **BSA** claiming jurisdiction over online broadcasters is part of a wider movement to censor the internet. Heather says the **BSA** is trying to remain relevant and to position itself to be at the heart of any future set up involving, eg, a 'super regulator'.

[BSA dismisses complaint about Midday Report interview](#)

RNZ 22/01/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has not upheld a complaint under the Discrimination and Denigration, and Fairness standards about an interviewee saying, on Midday Report, that Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters was "touching himself instead of doing a real job of caring for New Zealanders in difficulty"...The **BSA** noted the threshold for finding a breach of the Fairness standard is higher for politicians and public figures, and found the brief comment would not have left viewers with an unfairly negative impression of Peters. It ruled the Discrimination and Denigration standard did not apply.

[Licences to thrill: Kiwi radio stations receive 20-year frequency extension](#)

NZ Herald 27/01/26

Radio is affectionally known as the "cockroach" of media – you just can't kill it. Of all traditional media, it's been through the least commercial disruption over the past decade. A Government announcement is set to preserve that position, with Cabinet agreeing to extend AM and FM licences for another 20 years, beyond their current expiry in 2031. The Government is also selling additional licences which had previously been set aside for a national youth channel – opportunities for major players to open new battlegrounds...Radio attracts around 3.3 million listeners per week, a number that has remained broadly stable over the past 12 months.

[Sky TV renews deal with Yellowstone studio Paramount but HBO Max contract uncertain](#)

NZ Herald 27/01/26

Sky TV has renewed and expanded its deal with the US studio behind shows such as Yellowstone, but has yet to confirm speculation it is on the verge of parting ways with another major American studio and its hit shows. Publicly listed Sky TV told the NZX it was renewing its existing contract with Paramount, with an expanded portfolio of titles. But Sky has yet to confirm industry speculation it is parting ways with Warner Bros Discovery, and its range of HBO Max shows – including The Pitt – in mid-2026.

[The big media questions for 2026](#)

The Spinoff 22/01/26

Duncan Greive runs through the big storylines of the year in local media – and imagines how they might play out...Including 'Is our government going to keep watching Australia forever, or will it act?'

[Two thirds of New Zealanders have seen extreme content online, half believe it's unavoidable](#)

RNZ 27/01/26

A survey from the Classifications Office shows two thirds of New Zealanders have seen extreme and potentially illegal content online...It also found 49 percent of the population believed encountering extreme content online was unavoidable and 78 percent thought the likelihood of seeing it was increasing over time.

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao ([he/him](#))

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz
W: www.bsa.govt.nz
Follow us on X [@BSA_NZ](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

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Broadcasting Standards Authority | Level 2 / 119 Ghuznee Street, Wellington | PO Box 9213, Wellington 6141

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From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 10:41 am
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]

Out of scope
Section 9(2)(g)(i) - free and frank

[REDACTED]

NZ Herald (news item) – [New study reveals the words Kiwis most offended by on air, and the groups most vexed](#)

NZ Herald (editorial) – [The words Kiwis won't accept on air – and what that says about us](#)

1News – [Kiwis less tolerant of offensive language in broadcasting](#)

RNZ Nights (Stacey interview audio) – [Kiwis find bad language on air increasingly offensive](#)

RNZ online – [The words New Zealanders are most offended by](#)

The Spinoff (Stacey opinion piece) – [Flippin' heck! New Zealanders are getting less tolerant of swearing](#)

Newstalk ZB (Heather du Plessis-Allan Drive) – [Kiwi listeners less tolerant of offensive language, survey shows](#)

Pacific Media Network (incl. Stacey interview audio) – ['Words have power': Pacific tolerance for on-air slurs hits record low](#)

Also covered by [Otago Daily Times](#), [Rotorua Daily Post](#), [Indian Weekender](#), [Thai NZ News](#),

[BSA internet power grab: Why your podcasts are under threat!](#)

Editor in Chief podcast (Duncan Garner) 30/01/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** is facing a terminal decline and they've come up with a desperate plan to stay relevant. They want the government to rewrite the law so they can police the internet and control what we say on podcasts and live streams. We talk to Ashley Church and Maurice Williamson about why this mission creep is a massive overreach for a 35-year-old regulator.

[Death, devastation and extreme weather test media](#)

RNZ Mediawatch 01/02/26

...Last Wednesday, ACT MP Laura McClure lodged a Member's Bill to scrap the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**... "Given the fact that people are consuming media in all kinds of different places, it really is unfair for mainstream media to have to adhere to paying levies," McClure replied. Broadcasters pay a modest \$500 for each \$1m in revenue annually for **BSA** levies. "I do think it is important for people to have oversight and trust and accountability, and I think that we've got enough there." She didn't mention that broadcasters drew up the broadcasting standards, alongside the BSA, and those standards mirror their own editorial principles and guidelines. Scraping the BSA complaints system would probably mean more complaints ending up in court - a much bigger liability for broadcasters.

[Media Insider: Breakfast co-host Tova O'Brien's legal restraint; BSA rules on TVNZ Tom Phillips privacy complaint](#)

NZ Herald 31/02/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has rejected a complaint that TVNZ breached the privacy of Tom Phillips' children during two news reports following the deadly police shootout with the fugitive. A viewer, Sarah Money, complained the state broadcaster breached the children's privacy by stating they were being "co-operative" with police and by later broadcasting images of the campsite uncovered by police.

[Australia: What TV viewers expect: Safeguards for free-to-air and on-demand TV content](#)

ACMA research report

TV viewing habits are changing, and the main way we watch TV is subscription video on demand services. However, our research reveals many do not understand the rules and the services they apply to. The report highlights that a large majority of Australian adults want rules to ensure that content meets community expectations. A majority also support consistent rules across all free-to-air broadcast TV, streaming and on-demand content. Most viewers think it's important we have safeguards, including restrictions on certain content and rules for media organisations using AI.

[UK: Freeview 'to be switched off' update after Sky response as support soars](#)

Wales Live 01/02/26

A wave of public backing has emerged for a campaign seeking to preserve Freeview from potential discontinuation within coming years. Thousands have rallied behind a petition expressing concerns that terrestrial television services could face being 'switched off'. A petition hosted on Change.Org has seen support climb to nearly 100,000 signatures, demonstrating the depth of public sentiment. This follows Sky's publication of research calling on the government to discontinue traditional broadcasting and 'move fully to internet-delivered TV in the 2030s'.

[UK: Ofcom launches investigation into X over Grok sexualised imagery](#)

Ofcom media release 15/01/26

The UK's independent online safety watchdog, Ofcom, has opened a formal investigation into X under the UK's Online Safety Act, to determine whether it has complied with its duties to protect people in the UK from content that is illegal in the UK. There have been deeply concerning reports of the Grok AI chatbot account on X being used to create and share undressed images of people – which may amount to intimate image abuse or pornography – and sexualised images of children that may amount to child sexual abuse material (CSAM).



Flippin' heck! New Zealanders are getting less tolerant of swearing

It may have been a big year for swears, but 2025 saw New Zealanders clutching their pearls over rude words more than ever.

Stacey Wood
Guest writer

LATEST

How violence and...
are stretching EDs t
point

Catherine McGregor

Rent is getting chea
why that's not nece
thing

Joel MacManus



Mariameno Kapa-K
Tamihere and the c
confusing constitut

Lyric Waiwiri-Smith

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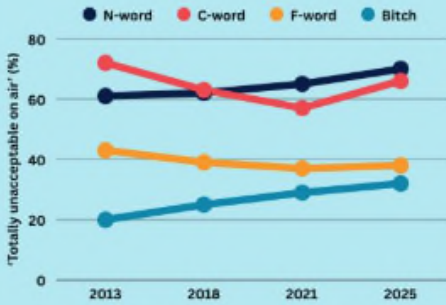
BSA New Zealand

@bsanz.bsky.social

We asked New Zealanders where they draw the line with strong language. Our new report on language that may offend in broadcasting reveals some fascinating shifts in attitudes:

www.bsa.govt.nz/news/bsa-new...

Language that may offend



BSA survey of 1,501 New Zealanders aged 18+



Tolerance for strong language has fallen. This partly reverses a long-term trend

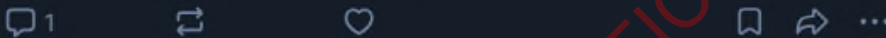


Attitudes have hardened sharply against racist & misogynistic language



Slurs about sexual orientation are also becoming less accepted

10:26 AM · Feb 3, 2026 Everybody can reply

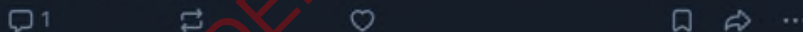


Write your reply



BSA New Zealand @bsanz.bsky.social · 1d

Public tolerance for offensive language in broadcasting has fallen in the past four years, partly reversing a long-term trend of softening attitudes. Racial slurs and terms targeting specific communities continue to be seen as least acceptable



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BSA New Zealand @bsanz.bsky.social · 1d

Six of the 10 most unacceptable terms relate to race, ethnicity or culture. The N-word remains least accepted, with 70% deeming it totally unacceptable on air. The C-word cemented its place in the top three. See the full report (Warning: language may offend): www.bsa.govt.nz/research-and...



1 [Retweet icon] [Like icon] [Bookmark icon] [Share icon] [More icon]



BSA New Zealand @bsanz.bsky.social · 1d

Classifications & timebands are an excellent tool to help you make informed viewing/listening choices for you and your whānau. Check out our video guide: www.bsa.govt.nz/broadcasting...

[Reply icon] [Retweet icon] [Like icon] [Bookmark icon] [Share icon] [More icon]

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NZ Classification Office

815 followers

35m •



The **Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho**'s latest research looks at where New Zealanders draw the line with strong language.

It shows public tolerance for offensive language on air has fallen over the past four years, partly reversing a long-term trend. Racial slurs and language targeting specific communities continue to be the least acceptable. The N-word remains the least accepted on air, and the C-word sits in the top three – likely reflecting recent public debate and visibility in political contexts.

Alongside our Online Exposure report, this research highlights how New Zealanders are thinking critically about what they're exposed to, and the impact language can have – whether on air or online.

Read the full BSA report here: <https://lnkd.in/eNcxYii4>

See our latest report Online Exposure: Experiences of Extreme or Illegal Content in Aotearoa here: <https://lnkd.in/eu2YNTJ3>



Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga K...

615 followers

1h •

We asked New Zealanders where they draw the line with strong language. Our new report on language that may offend in broadcasting reveals some fascinating shifts in attitudes: <https://lnkd.in/eAyKifGU>

Public tolerance for offensive language in broadcasting has fallen in the past four years, partly reversing a long-term trend of softening attitudes. Racial slurs and terms targeting specific communities continue to be seen as least acceptable.

Six of the 10 most unacceptable terms relate to race, ethnicity or culture. The N-word remains least accepted, with 70% deeming it totally unacceptable on air. The C-word cemented its place in the top three - likely reflecting recent public debates and visibility of such language in political contexts.

See the full report (Warning: language may offend): <https://lnkd.in/eNcxYii4>

Language that may offend



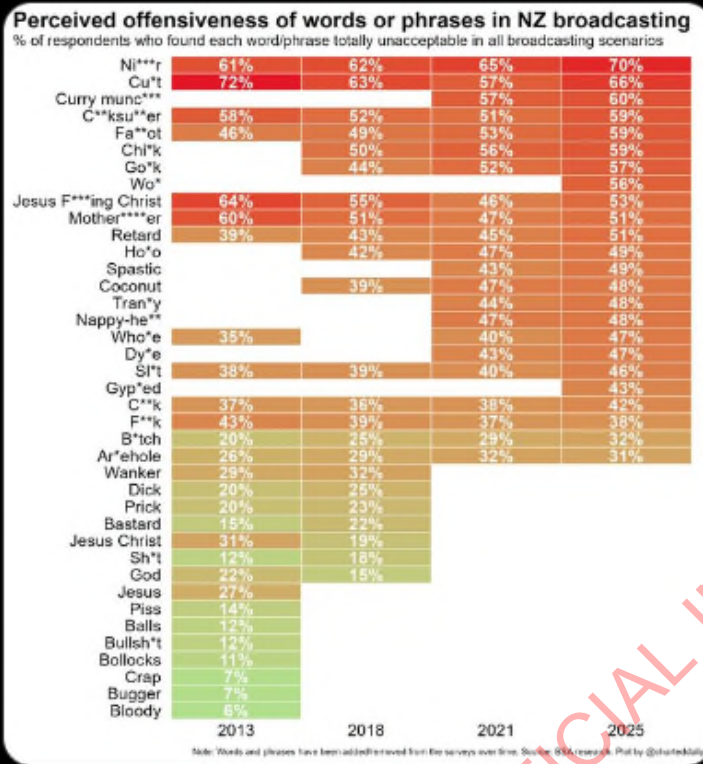


Charted Daily @Charteddaily · 5h

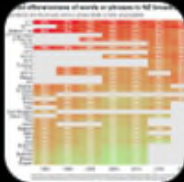


The latest @BSA_NZ report on which words or phrases Kiwis find offensive is out.

Comparisons with pre-2013 surveys aren't really possible anymore because the methodology changed, but the new results show most of the terms are viewed as more offensive than in 2021.



Charted Daily @Charteddaily · May 18, 2025



For over 30 years, @BSA_NZ has surveyed Kiwis about how offensive certain words are on air. The words vary across surveys, but there now seems to be more acceptance of general swearing and less tolerance for racist & sexist slurs. The 'C' & 'N' words remain the ...

Kia pai te rā | Have a great day

Pete Barnao (he/him)

Communications and Engagement Lead

Please note I am with the BSA Mon-Thurs each week



M: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]@bsa.govt.nz
W: www.bsa.govt.nz
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From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 3:02 pm
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Update
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kia ora koutou

A digest of online news coverage to date, plus a sample of comment/discussion on social media...

[Sean Plunket on the latest mumbo jumbo from the BSA](#)

The Platform 01/04/26

Sean Plunket on the latest Mumbo Jumbo from the BSA.

[Broadcasting Standards Authority v Sean Plunket and The Platform - BSA claims formal jurisdiction over Māori tikanga 'mumbo jumbo' comment](#)

NZ Herald 01/04/26

NZ First leader Winston Peters says a **Broadcasting Standards Authority** decision that it can adjudicate a complaint about The Platform online site - and owner Sean Plunket's comment of Māori tikanga 'mumbo jumbo' - borders on 'fascist behaviour', and it needs to be abolished. The BSA claims it has jurisdiction to consider a complaint laid against The Platform – a move that puts the authority in a major stand-off with some politicians and free-speech advocates. In a decision published today, the authority said it had determined it could accept and was "required to consider under the Broadcasting Act, complaints about The Platform's Live Talkback programme, because the programme meets the Act's definition of 'broadcasting'."

['Bordering on fascist': Winston Peters calls for BSA to be abolished after landmark ruling](#)

Stuff 01/04/26

NZ First leader Winston Peters has labelled the **Broadcasting Standards Authority's** (BSA) move to regulate online content as "bordering on fascist" and is calling for the agency to be abolished. Peters' comments follow a landmark BSA ruling on Wednesday confirming it has jurisdiction over The Platform, a digital talkback outlet hosted by Sean Plunket. The decision marks the first time the regulator has extended its reach to an online-only broadcaster.

[BSA claims jurisdiction to cover complaint about Sean Plunket's The Platform \[selectively paywalled, you may not be able to open\]](#)

The Post 01/04/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has determined it has jurisdiction to consider a complaint about online media service The Platform, in a move with potentially wide-ranging ramifications. It has broadcaster Sean Plunket, whose comments on The Platform triggered the initial complaint, fuming – both about the decision and the lack of action by the Government. "Given that it's wrong in law and shows inherent bias and is not sanctioned by Parliament, I was surprised," Plunket, who founded The Platform, told The Post on Wednesday.

[BSA power grab: Radical bureaucrats move to police online speech](#)

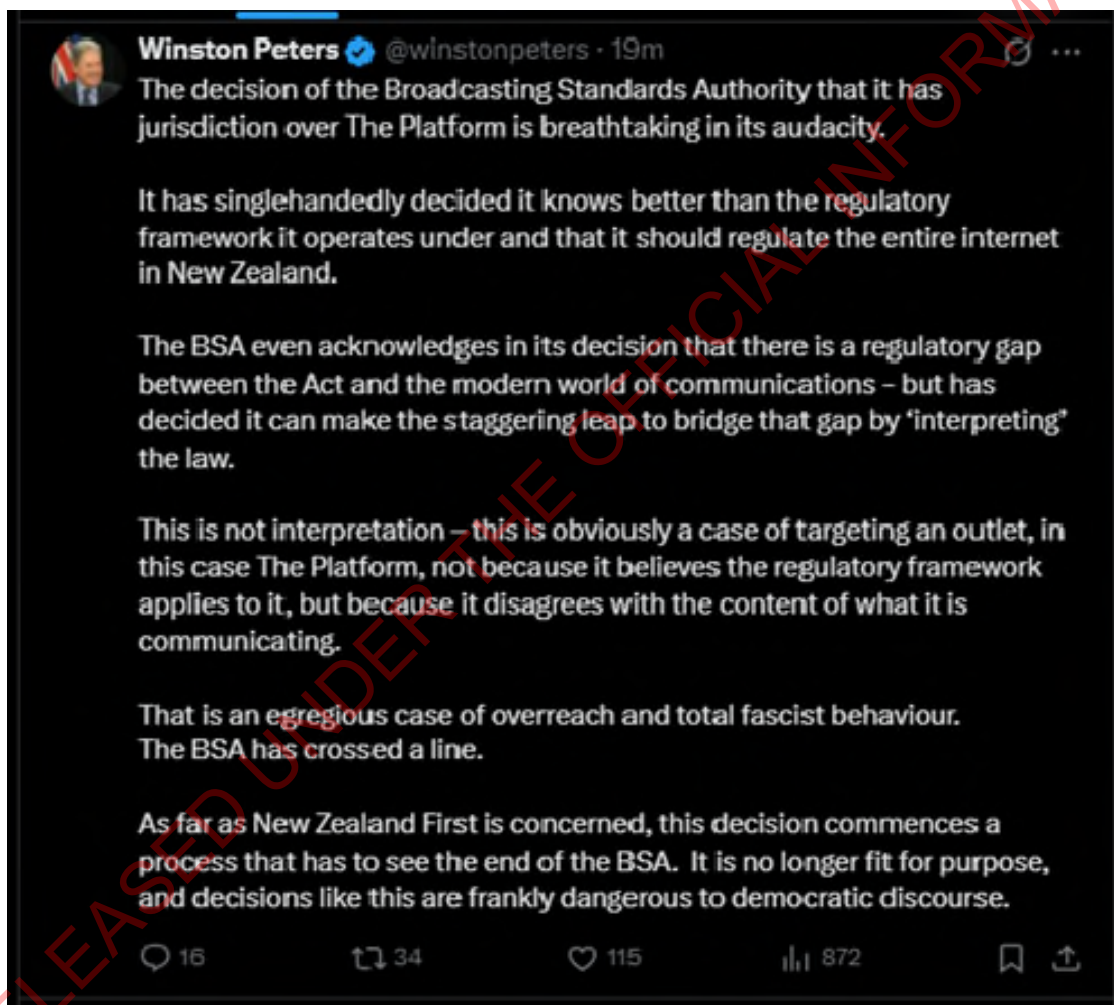
ACT media release 04/01/26

ACT MP Laura McClure says today's **Broadcasting Standards Authority** ruling shows a regulator scrambling to stay relevant by grabbing power it was never meant to have. McClure is the sponsor of the Broadcasting (Disestablishment of Broadcasting Standards Authority) Amendment Bill. "The BSA has taken a law written for rabbit-ear TV and tried to stretch it over podcasts and livestreams on the internet. That's not credible, and Kiwis won't buy it. This decision makes it clear the BSA isn't just out of date, it's out of control."

[BSA grabs power over online speech, no law change required](#)

Free Speech Union media release 01/04/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority** has claimed jurisdiction over The Platform, an online media outlet, under the Broadcasting Act 1989. No law was changed. No Bill was passed. The BSA simply reinterpreted a statute written before the internet existed and decided it now regulates online speech.





nzwarrior77 @nzwarrior77 · 55m



Hit luxon up about this issue and let us know what he's got to say. Screw coalition rules, it's election year.



28



king of the west II @meco78526 · 10m



I support the BSA & the stopping of misinformation spewed out of plunkett platform.



7



paddy 77 @PatForde81072 · 1h



Keiran McCaulnaulty loves the BSA. It's his favorite government department.



51



The Chimp Chronicles @ChimpChronicles · 57m



This is going to be very bad in the courts for BSA. I think @SeanPlunket should sue them



38



Lesser Megadeath @LesserMegadeath · 14m



the internet is broadcast information, very broad .

i'm fine with it



1



Ann Clark @AnnClar99687322 · 20m



Absolutely
Push them back or dismantle them



4



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S.O.P.P. 🇳🇿🇮🇪🇪🇸🇵🇹🇵🇪🇪🇺🇷🇺 @Huttvalleycraz1 · 27m

Oh cry me a f river.

So you're racist broadcasting buddy has to follow the rules.

Get over it snowflake!



11



Sass.Campbell @sassyimi · 24m

If the @BSA_NZ can label opinions "racist" by bias, what stops it censoring politicians, in an election year or anybody who uses the internet period. Have they appointed themselves NZ's e-commissioners



19



Justafiably @Justafiably · 38m

Does the BSA intend that every time I post on X that it is broadcasting and therefore cover this content as well?



17



Sean Plunket reposted



Ro Edge @roseynz · 3h

Best NZ gets a new Broadcasting Minister @chrisluxonmp as @PaulGoldsmithMP should have dealt with this bollocks. Time to get rid of the BSA completely @NZNationalParty @actparty @nzfirst! nzherald.co.nz/business/media...



1.3K



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Sean Plunket @SeanPlunket · 1h

The Broadcasting Standards authority continues to make up laws to claim control of the internet. Join me on [@theplatform_nz](#) from 7am.



7

198



Sean Plunket reposted



The Platform NZ @theplatform_nz · 10h

From 7am tomorrow with [@SeanPlunket](#), Laura McClure followed by Winston Peters react to the decision made by the BSA on their jurisdiction over the Platform, Ro Edge talks gender rules in the Olympics, and Harness Financial is in for Your Money Matters.

1

4

15

1.2K



Sean Plunket reposted

The Platform NZ @theplatform_nz · 14h

Tomorrow morning with [@SeanPlunket](#) we reveal the latest offensive in the Broadcasting Authorities ideological campaign against free speech. Be warned much of it is Mumbo Jumbo.

5

13

71

3.2K

Pinned



Sean Plunket @SeanPlunket · 20h

Feeling very let down by the government today but the fight will continue

39

7

79

12K



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[REDACTED]

From: Pete Barnao
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2026 10:53 am
To: Aroha Beck; john gillespie; Karyn Fenton-Ellis; Susie Staley
Cc: [REDACTED]; Helen Cruse; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Stacey Wood
Subject: Weekly update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Willie Jackson re: BSA and The Platform](#)

The Platform 07/04/26

Lengthy interview with former broadcasting minister Willie Jackson. Jackson says he supports broadcasters' right to express strong opinions, and acknowledges the need to modernise regulation, but says The Platform is an online broadcaster and should abide by standards like other broadcasters. Says there's now so much mis/disinformation that standards are "more essential than ever".

[Minister Goldsmith discusses BSA decision with Heather du Plessis-Allan](#)

Newstalk ZB 01/04/26

Broadcasting Minister Paul Goldsmith has revealed he's mulling over changes to the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. Set up in 1989, the Authority has regulatory powers over traditional broadcasters - but today ruled it can consider complaints against online broadcasters too. NZ First's Winston Peters has labelled the move 'fascist behaviour' and Goldsmith says he's working on a response. "The legislation is out of date, there's no question about that...it relates to a world where you just had broadcasting TV and broadcasting radio, so there was a situation built up around that. Now, of course, the world's moved on."

[Media Insider: Decision on regulation before election](#)

NZ Herald 03/04/26

The **Broadcasting Standards Authority's** controversial ruling that it has jurisdiction over Sean Plunket's online-only platform appears to have hastened a decision on the authority's own future...Officials have previously floated the idea of one organisation to cover all media, including online content providers. That also opens up a can of worms of who and what comes under that definition...The Government has confirmed to Media Insider that it will decide before the election whether there will be an overhaul of the regulatory oversight of media content.

[The BSA chooses to face its existential dilemma head on](#)

The Fold (The Spinoff) podcast 01/04/26

After six months of careful deliberation, and six years after it first floated the idea, the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** decided that it definitively does have jurisdiction over platforms like The Platform. This set off a firestorm stretching across politics, law and media, with the regulator having the temerity to suggest that one, relatively tiny corner of the internet was within its bounds. In a reversal of typical roles, Toby Manhire hosts Duncan Greive to break down this story, at once arcane and enormous.

[BSA a relic of a bygone era – Heather du Plessis-Allan](#)

NZ Herald 05/04/26

I have, in the past, been disciplined by the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**...So you'd be forgiven for writing off the following criticism of the BSA as resentment...The BSA doesn't necessarily have policing power over what is said on the internet. Its guiding legislation was written back in 1989...The obvious problem with the BSA starting to redraw its own boundaries is that it may continue to do so whenever the spirit takes hold...The fact that the BSA is trying to find work to do tells you that it is already irrelevant.

[The BSA's decision to take on The Platform is brave, principled, and indefensible](#)

The Spinoff 02/04/26

The Broadcasting Standards Authority has determined The Platform is within its remit. It's a bold move. It's also logically incoherent, writes Duncan Greive.

[When something is this broken, it's time to get a new one](#)

Knightly Views (Gavin Ellis blog) 07/04/26

It has never been sublime but now, by God, it is ridiculous: Media regulation has reached the point where the public it is supposed to serve are left confused and incredulous. The fault lies with successive governments that have seen the issues, then walked away because they think the solutions are too hard or they do not have the guts to confront powerful foreign forces. Governments led by both National and Labour have wilfully ignored the fact that the entire system is anachronistic and needs urgent replacement. Last week the outdated nature of the system was brought into sharp relief by the **Broadcasting Standards Authority's** attempt to ram a round peg into a mouldy square hole. In order to claim jurisdiction over Sean Plunket's online entity The Platform, the BSA was forced to squeeze every last morsel of possible meaning out of its empowering legislation.

[‘I'm not a broadcaster, I'm a webcaster': Sean Plunket hits back at BSA as Minister considers options](#)

Stuff 01/04/26

Sean Plunket says he is a journalist, but he should not be subject to the **Broadcasting Standards Authority** because he is not a broadcaster. That comes as Media and Communications Minister Paul Goldsmith said the Government is considering all options - including abolishing the regulator...Plunket also claimed Prime Minister Christopher Luxon had personally assured him last year that the government "had his back" regarding the "overreach," but had since done nothing. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Luxon said he did not recall having that conversation. "We have not interfered in this process at all, the BSA is independent," he said. "I can't imagine that's something I've said."

[Winston Peters accuses BSA of 'fascist behaviour', demands its abolition](#)

Three News 01/04/26

Winston Peters is firing up at the **Broadcasting Standards Authority**. The New Zealand First leader is accusing it of trying to police the entire internet, after it said it had jurisdiction over Sean Plunket's online show "The Platform".

[Attempt to de-platform the BSA fails](#)

Media Law Journal 01/04/26

The BSA has ruled that it has jurisdiction to receive complaints against the online media company, The Platform. "Using an unduly technical interpretation to exclude online broadcasters would create a significant gap in the protections available to New Zealanders", it wrote. "We consider the standards regime logically, and appropriately, includes online broadcasters such as The Platform." Read the decision. It's an orthodox exercise in statutory interpretation. I think it's right. You might

disagree with the conclusion (there are some quite good arguments both ways) but you'd have to be pretty unhinged to describe it as, say, "bordering on fascist".

 **Sean Plunket**  @SeanPlunket · Apr 1  ...

Parliament is broadcast live.
It has scheduled sitting times.
It is available via the internet.
It is a broadcaster.
You can complain to the BSA about it.

 36  75  614  13K  

 **Sean Plunket**  @SeanPlunket · Apr 3  ...

The @HelenClarkFound livestreams interactive events.
It has a schedule for those events
It uses the internet to share those programmes
The Helen Clark Foundation is a broadcaster
You can complain to the BSA about it.

 23  81  522  8.5K  

 Sean Plunket reposted

 **The Platform NZ**  @theplatform_nz · 28m  ...

Having refused to come on with @SeanPlunket to discuss the BSA overreach because it would be a breach of the cabinet manual @PaulGoldsmithMP is fronting on ZB this afternoon. He is as much use as an ashtray on a motorbike.

 4  6  30  413  

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Dr Harpreet Singh · 3rd+

PhD | Researcher & Author | Focused on education, law, & history. Lifelong le...
32m · Edited ·

I tried to warn everyone in November 2025. To Māori media, radio stations, television platforms, and to the BSA: hold the line and keep fighting. This is part of a familiar right-wing playbook. Silence the voice. Weaken the mandate. Strip away power until nothing remains. Do not let them succeed. Iwi, hapū, urban authorities, allies, and everyone listening: keep resisting. Your voice matters.

Article here: <https://lnkd.in/eAkHj4TY>

[Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho Te Māngai Pāho Waatea NEWS](#)

“Power is not just about money. It is also about who controls the story. Right-wing movements often attack academic freedom, public broadcasting, and critical education. They label dissenting voices as dangerous or unpatriotic. This creates a climate where questioning authority becomes risky, and where only one version of the truth is allowed to dominate.”

Sean Plunket reposted

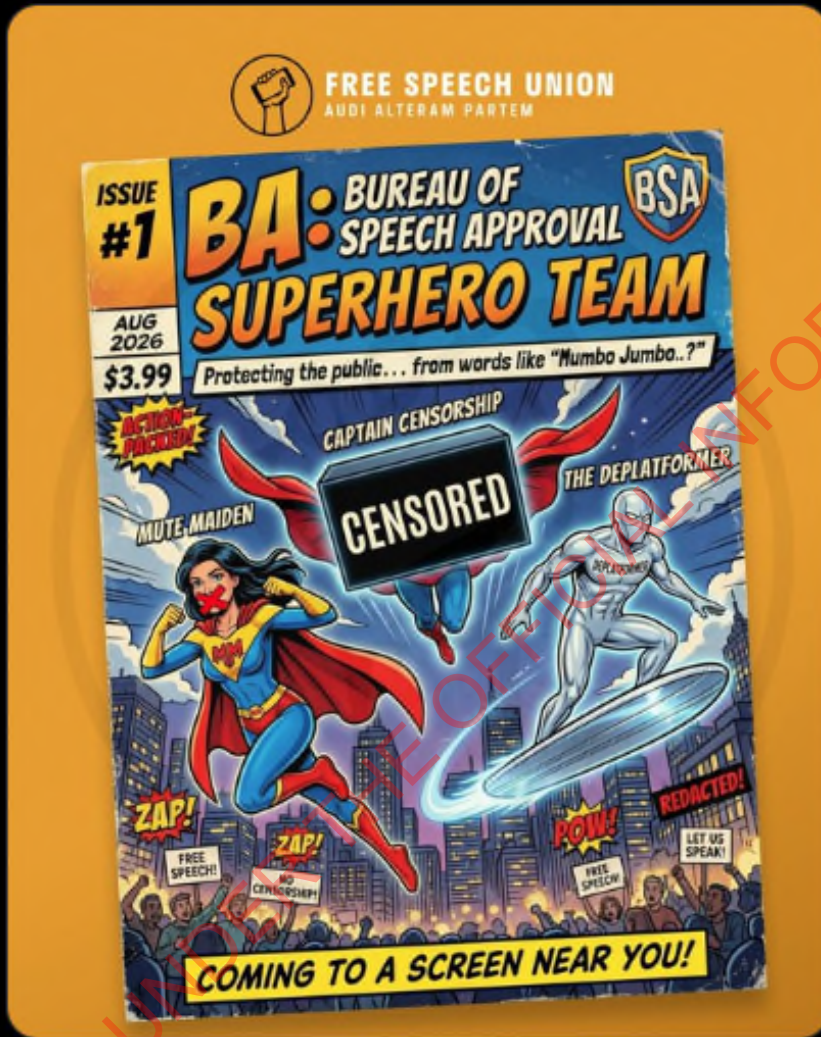


Free Speech Union @NZFreeSpeech · Apr 3

Meet the BSA - The Bureau of Speech Approval.
Captain Censorship, Mute Maiden and The Deplatformer

Protecting the public...
From online words they don't like.

Sign the petition to put the BSA back in it's box: fsu.nz/campaign/put-t...

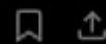


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