

Date

Dear manager,

I am writing a letter of complaint about the bias of coverage in relation to climate change science. This is a common theme of your radio station but I am particularly complaining about the presenter [name] during the period of 28 February - 22 March 2011. I believe there have been breaches of the code of practice 2.3 (as below) in relation to presenting significant viewpoints when dealing with an issue of high public importance – that is, climate change:

Commercial Radio Australia Codes of Practice 2010

2.3 In the preparation and presentation of current affairs programs a licensee must ensure that:

- (a) the reporting of factual material is clearly distinguishable from commentary and analysis;
- (b) reasonable efforts are made or reasonable opportunities are given to present significant viewpoints when dealing with controversial issues of public importance, either within the same program or similar programs, while the issue has immediate relevance to the community

The presenter's clear bias in presenting climate science and climate change issues is alarming. There are a lack of interviews with credible climate scientists, from institutions such as Australia's CSIRO, the Australian Academy of Sciences, the Bureau of Meteorology, or Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, for example. The encouragement to attend the anti-carbon tax rally in Canberra on 23 March, yet no encouragement to attend any pro-carbon tax activities, is one example of the blatant breach of balanced representation.

Climate change and the mechanism to deal with it (eg. a carbon tax) is an issue of national importance. Please invite balanced and informed viewpoints (not opinions) onto your program, like they exist in society. Having a license to broadcast is a great privilege that brings with it certain responsibilities. The primary responsibility is for truthful and balanced coverage, which you are not meeting.

I look forward to your response outlining how you will rectify this breach of the code of practice.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[address]

[phone number or email]