

s 22(1)

From: s 22(1)
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 2:38 PM
To:

s 22(1)

Cc: s 22(1) s 47F(1) @abc.net.au; s 47F(1) @sbs.com.au

s 22(1)

Subject: NAA intends to issue a disposal freeze - Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Our reference: 2026/137

Dear colleagues,

Following the recent government announcement of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, I am writing to advise that the National Archives of Australia intends to issue a disposal freeze on destruction of records that may be required for the purposes of the Royal Commission and any consequent Government action.

There is the possibility that your agency has relevant records which may be directly relevant to the subject of the Royal Commission but may have been sentenced (or could be sentenced) as temporary records for destruction. The new disposal freeze constitutes a legal requirement that you apply it by protecting any relevant records from destruction until otherwise advised by the National Archives.

Please forward this advice to the appropriate person in your agency if this has been misdirected, and to other colleagues, including in other agencies in your portfolio you think may need to know. The National Archives will also be contacting your agency head separately once the retention notice has been issued. General advice will be provided to all Australian Government agencies in due course. If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly or our [Agency Service Centre](#).

Kind regards,

s 22(1)

s 22(1)
Director
Government Records Assurance
National Archives of Australia / Murrulangalang



t +61 2 6212 3676
e s 22(1) [redacted] [@naa.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@naa.gov.au)
Kings Avenue, Parkes ACT 2600
PO Box 4924 Kingston ACT 2604 | naa.gov.au

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and celebrate their ongoing culture and contribution to society.

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)

From: s 22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 12:21 PM
To: s 22(1)
 s 22(1) s 47F(1) @abc.net.au; s 47F(1) @sbs.com.au; s 22(1)
Cc: s 22(1)
Subject: NAA intends to issue a disposal freeze - Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Disposal Freeze Notice - Records related to antisemitism and social cohesion, 2 Feb 2026, for distribution.PDF

OFFICIAL

Hi all

This is to inform you that the disposal freeze for records related to antisemitism and social cohesion has been issued. Please see the attached notice for your agencies' implementation.

It will be published on our [website](#) later this week.

Our Director-General will also be writing to your agency heads with a similar message.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and/or Agency Service Centre with any questions.

Kind regards,

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Director
 Government Records Assurance
 National Archives of Australia / Murrulangalang



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Our reference: 2026/137

Notice of Disposal Freeze

Records related to antisemitism and social cohesion

To the named Commonwealth departments and agencies:

- Attorney-General's Department, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Human Rights Commission
 - Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
 - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Cth) (CDPP)
 - Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
 - Office of the Special Investigator
- Department of Defence, Australian Defence Force, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation
 - Australian Signals Directorate
 - Defence Intelligence Organisation
- Department of Education, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian National University
 - Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Australian Secret Intelligence Service
- Department of Home Affairs, including Office for Social Cohesion, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
 - Australian Federal Police
 - Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
 - Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
 - Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism
 - Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 - Office of National Intelligence
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
 - Australian Communications and Media Authority
 - eSafety Commissioner (eSafety)
 - Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

As well as:

- all other Australian Government agencies, and any other persons or entities in possession of Commonwealth records, including the current and former ministers.

This document notifies all relevant entities, agents or people (see above) that I have issued a disposal freeze for Commonwealth records (includes data) relevant to the remit of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and any subsequent actions by the Government.

The National Archives of Australia (National Archives) has determined that a disposal freeze is necessary to ensure that these records are protected and available when required.

Background

On Thursday 8 January 2026, the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, announced the establishment of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (the Royal Commission), in the wake of the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025. [Letters Patent](#) were issued the following day by the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC to the Hon Virginia Bell AC.

The Independent Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies by Mr Dennis Richardson AC, established on 29 December 2025 in response to the Bondi terrorist attack, has become a part of this Royal Commission. A final report by Commissioner Bell is due not later than 14 December 2026.

Purpose

This disposal freeze suspends the National Archives of Australia's permissions to destroy any Commonwealth records related to antisemitism and social cohesion. These records must be retained for the purposes of informing the Royal Commission in its inquiries and considerations, as detailed in its [Letters Patent](#), as well as any subsequent actions by the Government.

Relevant records cannot be destroyed using any records authorities issued by the National Archives. This also applies to records that have already been authorised for destruction. Destruction of relevant material under normal administrative practices (NAP) is also suspended.

The only exception to this is [General Records Authority 31 - Destruction of source or original records after digitisation, conversion or migration](#) (GRA 31), which can be used to destroy source records that have been digitised, as long as its conditions and exclusions are complied with.

It is a legal requirement that you apply this disposal freeze by protecting any relevant records and informing the appropriate people in your organisation as a matter of urgency. Penalties for the unauthorised destruction of records are specified in various Commonwealth laws, including the *Archives Act 1983*.

Records covered

This disposal freeze covers Commonwealth records related to:

- social cohesion in Australia
- antisemitism and religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation in Australia
- the capabilities and powers of law enforcement, border control, immigration and security agencies to respond to antisemitic conduct

- the circumstances surrounding the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025, such as relevant agencies':
 - knowledge prior to the attack
 - judgements, decisions and actions made in relation to the attack; and
 - interactions and information sharing between agencies, other jurisdictions, partners, and community groups.

This disposal freeze applies to records in any digital or physical format, including, but not limited to, documents, emails, text and instant messages, social media posts and messages, audiovisual recordings, photographs, data and datasets, and models, algorithms and records of automated processes (including the use of artificial intelligence), and any associated inputs and outputs.

This disposal freeze applies to records regardless of where they were created or whether they have been captured into formal business systems. This includes records:

- in designated document and records management systems
- in active and inactive databases and digital business systems and platforms, including data stores for structured, semi-structured and unstructured data (such as agency data repositories, data lakes, and data warehouses), managed on premise or by third-party service providers, e.g. through cloud services
- in collaboration platforms and shared work group spaces, e.g. Microsoft Teams or GovTeams
- in individual and shared email accounts
- on shared, local or personal drives, e.g. network drives, OneDrive accounts, and portable drives, laptops and other personal or work devices; and
- in social media and other applications (apps) on personal and work devices.

All records must be maintained with the metadata necessary to provide context and support the discoverability of and access to information.

Please note: the Royal Commission is of [national significance](#) and, therefore, so are records relevant to it and subsequent Government actions. Some records in agencies will need to be considered for resentencing, as they may now meet the significance criteria of a records authority class requiring longer retention, including 'retain as national archives' (RNA) classes.

Authority

This action is taken pursuant to paragraphs 24(2)(b) and 24(2)(c) of the *Archives Act 1983*.

Duration

This disposal freeze will take effect immediately **and will be in force until further notice by the National Archives.**

Action required

The named Commonwealth departments and agencies, all other Australian Government agencies, and any other persons or entities in possession of Commonwealth records should:

1. Ensure that all relevant workers are informed of this disposal freeze.
2. Conduct a risk assessment to:
 - a. determine if workers, contractors or records service providers have any records due for destruction that come within the scope of the disposal freeze; and
 - b. identify and retain relevant existing and future records subject to this disposal freeze.
3. Check any records already proposed for destruction that may come within the scope of the disposal freeze to ensure they are not covered by the disposal freeze.
4. Retain existing and future records subject to the disposal freeze until further notice.

Impact

The processing, reviewing and storage costs arising from the implementation of this disposal freeze will be borne by the agencies or other agents or people concerned.

Inquiries

For inquiries about this disposal freeze, please contact the National Archives' Agency Service Centre via information.management@naa.gov.au.

Issued by

Simon Froude

Director-General

National Archives of Australia

2 February 2026

Approved digitally in the workflow R95712026

s 22(1)

From: s 22(1) on behalf of Simon Froude
Sent: Friday, 6 February 2026 8:56 AM
To: s 47F(1) @sbs.com.au'
Subject: Disposal freeze for records related to antisemitism and social cohesion [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Dear s 47F(1)

I am writing to notify you that a disposal freeze for records related to antisemitism and social cohesion has been issued by the National Archives of Australia. Please find a copy of the notice of disposal freeze attached or on [our website](#).

This disposal freeze temporarily suspends the National Archives' permission to destroy any records (including data) relevant to the remit of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and any subsequent actions by the Government. It is a legal requirement that you apply this freeze by protecting relevant records and data from destruction. I ask you to convey this to the appropriate people in your organisation as a matter of urgency.

The freeze takes effect immediately and will be in force until further notice.

We have also notified your agency's information management team. They will be working to support your agency's compliance with this disposal freeze.

For further information, please contact Josephine Secis, Assistant Director-General, Collection Management (josephine.secis@naa.gov.au / 07 3249 4202).

Yours faithfully

Simon Froude
Director-General
National Archives of Australia

s 22(1)

Executive Assistant to the Director-General
Simon Froude



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National Archives of Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to the people, their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.

s 22(1)

From: s 22(1) on behalf of Simon Froude
Sent: Friday, 6 February 2026 8:25 AM
To: s 47F(1) @abc.net.au'
Subject: Disposal freeze for records related to antisemitism and social cohesion [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Dear s 47F(1)

I am writing to notify you that a disposal freeze for records related to antisemitism and social cohesion has been issued by the National Archives of Australia. Please find a copy of the notice of disposal freeze attached or on [our website](#).

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We have also notified your agency's information management team. They will be working to support your agency's compliance with this disposal freeze.

For further information, please contact Josephine Secis, Assistant Director-General, Collection Management (josephine.secis@naa.gov.au / 07 3249 4202).

Yours faithfully

Simon Froude
Director-General
National Archives of Australia

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Executive Assistant to the Director-General
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