



CORONERS COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**Coronial inquests/inquiries into 2019-20 New South
Wales Bushfire Season and related deaths**

Media Guidelines and Live Streaming Protocol

August 2021

Media Guidelines for coronial proceedings

The Coroners Court is committed to maintaining a COVID-safe workplace.

Close attention should be given to all applicable COVID-19 memoranda issued by the State Coroner and the Chief Magistrate. In accordance with the State Coroner's Memorandum No 4, the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court complex at Lidcombe will not be open to the media or the public.

The Court will live stream the proceedings via its website at the following link:
<https://coroners.nsw.gov.au/coroners-court/upcoming-inquests/live-streams.html>.

It is a condition of accessing the live stream that a user must not record, publish or share the content in any form, unless with express permission of the Court. Content includes video and audio recordings, and still images. Media representatives may apply to the Court for permission to publish live streamed material for the purpose of reporting in the proceedings.

The live stream may be muted or suspended at any time, including:

1. when the Court has exercised its power to exclude the public from a hearing
2. where protective or restrictive orders have been made
3. for the welfare of the family, parties, witnesses or other people; and
4. for any other reason as determined by the Court.

Sections 9, 9A and 9B of the *Court Security Act 2005 (NSW)* restricts the use of recording devices, and the unauthorised transmission and distribution of court proceedings and recordings.

Breaches of *Court Security Act 2005* and the *Coroners Act 2009* may constitute a criminal offence. Failing to comply with a Court's order may constitute the offence of contempt of court. It is the responsibility of media outlets to ensure all orders are complied with. If unsure, journalists should contact the Local Court's Media Officer to confirm the orders in effect.

If you have any questions about this document please contact Albert Martinez, Local Courts Media Officer, Department of Communities and Justice, 0408 459 135 or email: localcourtmedia@courts.nsw.gov.au.