

# media release



ABC  
Books

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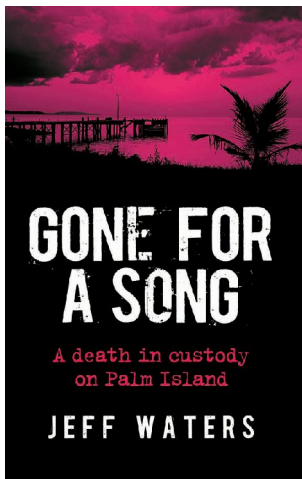
The ABC has begun legal action in Queensland's Supreme Court hoping to overturn an order that prevents the reporting of controversial evidence in the case of an Aboriginal death in custody on Palm Island.

The ABC went to court because *GONE FOR A SONG, A Death in Custody on Palm Island* by ABC journalist Jeff Waters (ABC Books, May 2008) was unable to include the secret evidence.

In 2005, Deputy State Coroner Christine Clements placed non publication orders over some of the evidence heard at a Directions hearing into the death of a man known as Mulrunji and also ordered that the reasons for the orders not be published. Police Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley stood trial for the death of Mulrunji on Palm Island in 2004 and was acquitted of manslaughter last year.

A Directions hearing in relation to the ABC's application will be heard on the 5th of September.

Jeff Waters explains further in the Postscript to *GONE FOR A SONG*:



The release of the evidence that remains unreportable due to a suppression order from the coroner's court would surely result in yet another round of angry protest. Now that [Senior sergeant Chris Hurley's] trial is over, there is no reason why, in the public interest, the suppression order should not be overturned. The information that would then become available would certainly reveal a need for institutional reform - and perhaps even force it - for the benefit of society as a whole.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE A COPY OF *GONE FOR A SONG*,  
please contact Jane Finemore, ABC Books Publicity on 028333 3969 or

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