

**From:****Sent:** Tuesday, 28 June 2016 7:40 p.m.**To:** Registrar**Subject:** FairfaxNZME merger proposal public submission

This audacious proposal would make New Zealand the first democracy in the world to have virtually "one voice" in daily newspapers and a huge monopoly in digital news platforms. The newspaper outlets not owned by the two principals have a miniscule share of the print market and no national reach.

In their submission, both companies have grossly overstated the so-called competition in online news platforms to the point where submissions on this point amount to deceit.

For new Zealand news, the Stuff and NZME websites have a virtual monopoly. Other outlets providing NZ news are indeed "tiny" by any test. They cite The Guardian and the New York Times sites as "competition". These sites provide world news with no perspective on NZ affairs.

Google and Facebook are not seen as legitimate providers of legitimate journalism and essentially provide "headlines" from other sources.

New Zealand once had a deserved reputation for a robust and healthy press with quality journalism. Both companies involved in this proposal have led the sad decline with mismanagement from Australian parents which has seen editorial staff slashed and their products openly mocked for their lack of quality.

Having hastened the death of journalism in this country, they now seek the commercial benefits of creating a massive monopoly.

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