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**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 June 2016 5:44 p.m.  
**To:** Registrar  
**Cc:** mark@nmf.co.nz  
**Subject:** Submission against the merger of Fairfax and NZME

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of *Nelson Marlborough Farming* newspaper I register this submission against Wilson and Horton Ltd (trading as NZME) and Fairfax NZ Ltd who are seeking authorisation to merge their media operations in New Zealand.

A merger between the two largest media companies in New Zealand is not in the best interests of the existing media industry and the people of New Zealand.

If this merger is approved it will open up the possibility for:

- A monopolistic news service, covering both radio and print
- Digital news choices will be reduced to one source (currently there are two: *Stuff* and *NZ Herald*)
- A monopolistic approach to advertising sales, with predatory pricing to the exclusion of smaller independent publishers like ourselves who service local and special interest communities
- A reduction in the quality of editorial content
- The reduction in employment opportunities in all publishing categories, and the resulting drop in training through the established and approved ITO's..

We believe that a strong 'Fourth Estate' requires a variety of media publishers (as well as independent mediums) and to put the control in the hands of one company would be seen as a great injustice to all New Zealanders.

Yours faithfully

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