

From: Daryl Crimp [mailto:editor@thefishingpaper.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 1 July 2016 10:22 a.m.
To: Registrar
Subject: Submission re the Fairfax/NZME merger

To who it may concern,

On behalf of Coastal Media and The Fishing Paper & Hunting News, 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.

I believe a merger between the two largest media companies in the country will not be in the best interests of New Zealanders in general, or the sustainability of the current diverse media industry, because it will create a huge corporate driven monopoly that is unlikely to have the essence of free, independent, and democratic journalism and media representation at its core. Such a singular dominance in a small market the likes of New Zealand flies in the face of our intrinsic identity, core values as a nation, and the independent spirit that has built our reputation on the world stage.

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

- A monopolistic news service, covering radio and print. A loss of quality local news in place of more generic national and international coverage.
- Digital news choices reduced to one source, ie currently Stuff and NZ Herald, only one will survive.
- A monopolistic approach to advertising sales, with predatory pricing to the exclusion of Independent publishers across NZ.
- Driving smaller independent publishers out of their respective areas and local community.
- A reduction in the quality and quantity of editorial scrutiny and content across the country, and the potential for bias or unbalanced representation.

More potential for political bias and influence

- The reduction in employment opportunities in all publishing categories, and the resulting drop in training through the established and approved ITO's, i.e. a dumbing down of the industry .
- The 'Fourth Estate' was acknowledged as the eyes and ears of the residents of this country, to put the control in the hands of one company would be seen as a great injustice to all New Zealanders.

Yours sincerely,
Daryl Crimp
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