

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2023 09:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Microsoft/Activision merger

Kia ora

I am writing to oppose the merger of Microsoft and Activision. The Commerce Commission is wrong to take the view that it is unlikely to have any horizontal effects in the market.

While there are other well resourced competitors in the market, the size of a joint Activision/Microsoft merger has the potential to drown out the competitors. It is important that hardware companies, including Sony, are prevented from any further mergers as consumers will end up paying more for content within closed ecosystems, or choosing to buy into both ecosystems. This includes costs of paying for subscriptions to play online.

The story of Microsoft buying Bethesda to secure the rights to a marquis game should be a warning to regulators.

Continued mergers of hardware makers and game developers will hurt competition, innovation, and consumers. This can be clearly discerned from other technology companies such as Facebook, Google, and Apple acquiring other companies to drown out competition.

The Commerce Commission must not approve the merger between Microsoft and Activision.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]