



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 20033/21
Your ref: Petition 3590-21

27 September 2021

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2021 regarding Petition No. 3590-21 tabled on 14 September 2021, about communities in western parts of Queensland losing access to printed newspapers.

I acknowledge the interest that the petitioners have in relation to their daily printed news service in the communities mentioned in your petition, and that they would prefer a paper format for their newspaper to an electronic-only publication.

I hope that the businesses that sell these products will not be too heavily impacted if the daily paper-format newspapers cease, and that there will not be any negative consequences for newspaper products supplied by other media companies in the affected communities.

I understand the cessation of a daily delivery by NewsCorp was a commercial decision made by the company and is not something over which the Queensland Government has any control. Postal, telegraphic, telephonic, and media ownership are all matters for which the Federal Government is responsible. As such, the Federal Government may be able to provide advice to the petitioners regarding their request. I am advised such matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts.

Minister Fletcher can be contacted by email to paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au or in writing to PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

There may also be interest of the Federal Government in reviewing the funding situation of the ABC and SBS to assist these communities with additional news services.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

If your office requires further information, please contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities**