



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

Our ref: CTS 23165/21

18/11/2021

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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 27 October 2021 regarding communities in western parts of Queensland losing access to printed newspapers on 26 September 2021, as advised by NewsCorp, tabled on 26 October 2021 in Petition No. 3633-21.

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

I hope that the businesses that sell these products will not be seriously affected when 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 impacted 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 at [paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au) or in writing to PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Furner'.

**MARK FURNER MP**  
**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and**  
**Minister for Rural Communities**