

**From:** [infrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au)  
**To:** [News Journalism](#)  
**Subject:** submission to: News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 18 January 2024 12:15:10 PM

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Submitted on 18 January 2024

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

## Step 1: Your submission

### Remain Anonymous

Yes

### Private Submission

No

### Published name

[REDACTED]

### Short comment

[REDACTED]

18/1/24

Subject: Support for Struggling Regional and Local Papers

I am writing to bring to your attention the critical challenges faced by regional and local newspapers in our community. I am deeply concerned about the financial strains these publications endure while striving to deliver essential news and content to our communities.

#### 1. Regular Government Submissions:

Regional papers play a pivotal role in keeping the public informed about local events, issues, and achievements. However, the economic viability of producing a free local paper has become increasingly challenging. In order to sustain these vital community resources, I urge the government to allocate funds for regular submissions to support struggling regional and local papers. A consistent injection of financial support, at least once a week, will greatly assist these publications in meeting their operational costs and continuing their essential services to the community..

#### 2. Tax Rebate for Journalist Employees:

Journalists are the backbone of our local papers, working tirelessly to gather and report on news that directly impacts our community. To alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by these dedicated professionals, I propose the introduction of a tax rebate for journalist employees. This incentive will not only recognize the crucial role journalists play in keeping our communities informed but will also provide much-needed financial relief to those working in an industry that is facing unprecedented challenges.

#### 3. Funding for Sufficient Staff Coverage:

One of the primary struggles faced by regional and local papers is the limitation of resources, particularly in terms of staffing. To address this issue, I recommend the allocation of additional funding to enable newspapers to hire and maintain sufficient staff to cover stories comprehensively. A well-staffed newsroom is essential for providing accurate, timely, and in-depth coverage of local events, ensuring that our community stays informed and connected.

In conclusion, the sustainability of regional and local papers is vital for the well-being of our communities. By implementing the proposed measures, we can demonstrate a commitment to supporting the free press, fostering informed citizenry, and preserving the essential role that these newspapers play in our society.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and am hopeful that you will consider these recommendations to safeguard the future of our regional and local newspapers.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the well-being of our community..

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Step 2: Contact details

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Email notification**

news.journalism@communications.gov.au

**Consultation name**

News Media Assistance Program (News MAP)