

From: [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#) on behalf of infrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au
To: [News Journalism](#)
Subject: [WARNING: UNSCANNABLE EXTRACTION FAILED]submission to: News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024 12:06:58 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Submitted on 22 February 2024

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Step 1: Your submission

Remain Anonymous

Yes

Private Submission

No

Published name

[REDACTED]

Short comment

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and share our views on the Federal Government's News MAP consultation process.

The [REDACTED] is a locally owned, independent newspaper with a distinguished tradition of public interest journalism, documenting events and opinions shaping our region. We are a member of Country Press Australia and Victorian Country Press Association. Serving [REDACTED] and district for [REDACTED] years we publish on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the [REDACTED] delivers up-to-date and in-depth news with a focus on [REDACTED] and district issues and sports reports that acknowledge local achievements. Our dedicated team meets tight deadlines with contracted printers in Morwell, located four hours away. Pages are sent the afternoon before publication. On average, we print 72 to 80 pages weekly across all three editions, distributing to outlets throughout south-west Victoria, covering from Geelong in the east to Warrnambool in the west and along the coast from Port Campbell to Lorne.

Regional newspapers, including ours, serve as the lifeblood of local communities, providing a unique perspective on regional and some national affairs. We act as a platform for community voices, facilitate dialogue, and contribute to the development of a strong local identity. Our investigative reporting holds local authorities accountable and ensures transparency in an era where misinformation can spread rapidly. The importance of regional newspapers lies in our ability to inform, connect, and empower local communities through accurate and relevant information.

The longevity of regional newspapers in Australia is tied to the well-being of the communities we serve. Recognizing our pivotal role in fostering community cohesion and informing residents, government support is imperative for the continued existence and vibrancy of our publications. Financial constraints and evolving media environments necessitate assistance to maintain journalistic standards, cover local issues, and invest in

necessary technology. As integral components of the social infrastructure, government support ensures that regional newspapers remain a vital source of community information, engagement, and cohesion.

Government support for all regional newspapers is crucial due to financial constraints, declining advertising revenues, and changing media consumption patterns. Assistance can alleviate these pressures, enabling us to continue providing accurate, timely, and relevant information to communities.

We join members of Country Press Australia, in seeking government support, including a weekly full page of Federal Government advertising in every regional and local newspaper weekly, a refundable tax credit for eligible newsroom employee costs, and funding for 70% of first-year wages for 100 cadet journalists annually in regional and local newspapers.

Federal government support for our newspaper is essential for our longevity and the assurance that our local news will continue serving our communities. Acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges faced by regional newspapers is paramount as the media landscape evolves. By extending your support to public interest journalism, the government actively contributes to the resilience of our newspapers, ensuring we remain a cornerstone of community information and engagement.

We urge that you consider this submission and support our requests for all members.

Upload attachments

File uploads

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Step 2: Contact details

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Email notification

news.journalism@communications.gov.au

Consultation name

News Media Assistance Program (News MAP)