

Impartiality and commercial influence in broadcast news - consultation

02/2020

I think the broadcast and print journalist standards have greatly declined in the last twenty to thirty years. Our local paper was recently taken over by News Limited and the journalistic standards have slipped markedly.

Previously we generally had balance in news stories, views from both sides of regional stories. We now have much fewer regional stories and a good smattering of unbalanced vitriol sourced from the Right-Wing commentators from Sky such as Andrew Bolt. The rest of what used to be quite a good local rag is now puppy and landscape photos.

The other Murdoch press rags I occasionally pick up have little bearing to balanced news, they obviously push an agenda: climate scientists are lying to you, renewables could never replace coal, the LNP is the only party that can be financially responsible and the like. The vitriol is unending from commentators (not journalists) such as Bolt, Alan Jones, Ray Hadley, Piers Ackerman, who are held to no journalistic standards. These commentators show no balance, their idea of balance is to quote the other's beat-ups. Unfortunately, NewsCorp dominates both the press and airways in regional areas.

Kudos to Nine news, they have so far stood by the journalistic integrity of the Fairfax press. This source seems to still be a good source of local, national and international news with good level of balanced investigative journalism.

The ABC is still a beacon of good world journalism on radio, print and online. The fact that the ABC has been badly hamstrung by the Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison governments is becoming more and more obvious.

The International content of the ABC has been severely reduced, and coverage of regional crises has seen many experienced investigative journalists being pulled from their normal jobs and sent into what would used to have been in the past, the job of the local news teams.

Further cuts by the government to the ABC will severely damage what has been for generations a much-revered global organisation, used internationally as a reliable source of information.