

13 December 2012

Senator Christine Milne  
Hobart Electorate Office  
GPO Box 896  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Senator Milne

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May 2012, which expressed your support for Avaaz's submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (**the ACMA**) concerning possible control of News Limited associated newspapers by Mr Lachlan Murdoch.

In my subsequent letter to you of 1 June, I advised that I would provide you with a further response once the ACMA had concluded its inquiries.

I write to inform you that the ACMA has now concluded its inquiries and remains satisfied that:

- > Mr Lachlan Murdoch is not in a position to exercise control of the News Limited associated newspapers; and
- > Mr Lachlan Murdoch and Mr Rupert Murdoch are not associates within the meaning of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the Act).

As a consequence, Mr Lachlan Murdoch is not currently in breach of the Act.

Further, the ACMA is also satisfied that Mr Rupert Murdoch is not in a position to exercise control of the TEN Network commercial television broadcasting licences and the DMG Radio Group commercial radio broadcasting licences controlled by Mr Lachlan Murdoch.

Please note that the ACMA has written to Avaaz informing them of the above.

#### **Lachlan Murdoch and Rupert Murdoch as 'associates'**

The term 'associate' is defined in section 6 of the Act to include a parent or child of the person in question. Because Mr Rupert Murdoch is Mr Lachlan Murdoch's father, they are associates under the Act unless the ACMA is satisfied that:

1. they do not act together in any relevant dealings relating to that company or newspaper; and
2. neither of them is in a position to exert influence over the business dealings of the other in relation to the relevant company or newspaper.

At this time, the ACMA remains satisfied of matters 1. and 2. above.

The ACMA has looked closely at whether Mr Lachlan Murdoch and Mr Rupert Murdoch act together in any relevant dealing in relation to the News Limited associated newspapers but has found no evidence that they do.

The ACMA has also considered whether Mr Lachlan Murdoch is in a position to exert influence over the business dealings of Mr Rupert Murdoch in relation to those associated newspapers. Again, it has found no evidence that he is.

**Lachlan Murdoch as otherwise in a position to exercise control of News Limited**

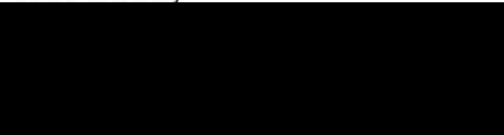
As a result of its inquiries, the ACMA is also satisfied that Mr Lachlan Murdoch is not otherwise in a position to exercise control of News Limited. In particular, Mr Lachlan Murdoch is not involved in the affairs of News Limited and does not have company interests in News Corp of more than 15 per cent.

**Future developments**

The ACMA will continue to monitor developments and issues to ensure that the Act is being complied with and will continue to undertake such inquiries and investigations as it deems appropriate where it suspects breaches of the control rules may have occurred.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely



**Chris Chapman**  
Chairman

