

13 June 2024

Michael Miller Executive Chairman News Corp Australia

By email: michael.miller@news.com.au Cc: campbell.reid@news.com.au

Dear Michael,

News Corp Redundancies

1. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance ("**MEAA**") represents its members at News Corp and we write on their behalf to raise significant concerns regarding News Corp's recent restructuring.

Lack of Information

- 2. In recent announcements to staff, News Corp has raised the specter of significant cost cutting including the reorganization of the companies' divisions, major changes in reporting lines and reduction of staff numbers. This announcement was made to staff and then followed up with a complete lack of information of exactly how this would impact them.
- 3. It is also noted that other media outlets were reporting on the restructure before staff were informed and often more detail is provided in the media reports than directly by management.
- 4. MEAA is aware that editorial managers have been advised of the costs savings that are required of them and yet staff are none the wiser as to how these cuts will impact them.

Quality Journalism

- 5. It is of significant concern to MEAA that this cost cutting will result in a further reduction in journalist numbers, consistent with a rapid and continuing decline in the size of News Corp newsrooms across several years.
- 6. This reduction in numbers will inhibit the ability of journalists to perform their vital functions.
- 7. We remind News Corp of its pivotal role as a producer of journalism in the providing of democratic accountability, public information, and ethical reporting, all of which will be negatively affected by further reduction in journalist numbers.

Obligation to Consult

- 8. Our members are completely in the dark as to their futures amid the worst cost-of-living crisis in recent memory.
- 9. The total lack of information and consultation is completely unacceptable to our members and entirely inconsistent with the company's obligations to its staff. To address this utterly objectionable approach, we require News Corp to immediately take the following steps:
 - a. Meet with MEAA and the MEAA News Corp House Committee to engage in appropriate consultation; and
 - b. Brief editorial staff on the possible cost savings and impacts to their futures

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- 10. Should News Corp continue to be derelict in its obligations to staff, MEAA members may be required to consider the taking of appropriate steps afforded to them under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth).
- 11. Your response to this letter is requested in writing by 5pm 21 June 2024.
- 12. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact acting Director, Media Section, Michelle Rae on michelle.rae@meaa.org

Yours Faithfully,

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James Rodgers National Industrial Officer