The **Issues for Policy and Legislation** paper from MBIE basically ignores the needs of New Zealand audiences, the public and communities. It assumes that public service media institutions do not matter.

The review sees convergence only in commercial terms that focus on assisting business. The civic and cultural aspects of media convergence are ignored.

The length of time given for non-commercial organisations and people in general have been given a very short time to write submissions whereas commercial entities have been party to talks since December 2014. This is not democracy in action.

I believe strategies to ensure the quality of media and content as well as diversity are needed. Currently it is difficult for many of the public to distinguish between balanced and accurate media content and that which is biased.

Local news and current affairs need to be protected - this is a fundamental aspect of democracy.

It is not acceptable to have purely an online platform for public service. Not everyone has access it or will ever have access to it and much of the public do not want to receive it online. Online media, as stated in MBIE's paper for this review, is also vulnerable to 'criminal and malicious intent'. It needs to be a cross-platform network.

There needs to be some kind of levy introduced to support and expand the currently stiffled public service media services. Looking at radio only I understand that Radio New Zealand's budget has been frozen since 2008.

In addition the standards for content applies to decency and balance and it is vital that these standards are applied equally across all platforms. These standards need to have a regulatory framework with an enforcement component otherwise they are meaningless.

Please do not allow convergence to be an excuse to whittle away standards, an excuse to give the responsibility for protecting the public interest to the commercial media sector and an excuse to undermine democracy in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

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Ohariu Electorate.