



Bruce Davidson
Chief Executive
Australian Associated Press
By email: [REDACTED]

cc: Hugh Marks, Nine
Michael Miller, News Corp
James Warburton, Seven West Media

18 March 2020

Dear Mr Davidson

Australian Associated Press - national interest

I write in relation to the announced closure of Australian Associated Press (AAP).

Australia is facing a once in a generation challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when Australians are facing the most significant health challenge since the 1918 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the AAP newswire service is more critical than at any time since the end of the second world war.

Accordingly, MEAA urges the shareholders to reconsider the decision to close the newswire service and to keep the newswire service open right through the calendar year 2020.

Such a decision would be in the national interest.

Since its formation in 1935, AAP has provided Australians with news that is reliable, independent, accurate, objective, balanced and completely free of political agendas.

Now more than ever, the Australian media industry is looking to AAP to provide reliable reporting of courts, politics, sport, business, general news and photography.

These truly are extraordinary times and I implore the Board to revisit the recent decision in light of the national challenge presented by the COVID19 pandemic.

If you require any further information, please contact me or Neill Jones Director, Media on 0428226388 or neill.jones@meaa.org.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Murphy
Chief Executive