

Inquiry: The Treasury Laws Amendment (News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code) Bill 2020.

I am writing regarding the above proposed Bill.

As it stands, I feel that the Bill is an overreach of government and a heavy handed approach to something that should be solved via discourse.

My primary concern is that rather than helping news publishers in Australia, it will instead result in Australians being unable to access local news via Google or similar platforms. I also worry that instead of supporting Australian journalism, it will introduce more hurdles and potentially kill off publications that are already struggling.

These large platforms do not need the traffic generated by Australia to survive, and as such the attempt by the Government to strong-arm them will struggle to succeed as it comes from a position of weakness. By forcing their hand, these platforms may just cease to provide the services we are able to enjoy today.

Whilst I appreciate that there is an imbalance currently in revenue sharing, I believe that providing these platforms with the chance to come up with their own solutions to them be discussed with partners and Government is a better approach. These platforms are already on the defensive now, as this proposed bill was an overly aggressive attempt to manage an issue that instead needed discussion and compromise.

At the end of the day, my belief is this bill will be detrimental to Australians.