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Submission:

Australia is suffering under the malign influence of Rupert Murdoch's media monopoly.

I have seen Rupert Murdoch's hard right propaganda machine grow like a cancer over the years. It is so chilling now it is hard to bear. The whole country is suffering from an ever-increasing barrage of hard right promotion putting property and money interests over our democracy and our wellbeing. It is an insulting and unbearable situation. Even 'our' ABC is under attack from shamelessly biased presenters that selectively favour Murdoch's climate change denying lies and the spread of disinformation. Other Murdoch outlets support environmentally destructive development deals, misogynistic and racist attitudes, divisive hatred of difference, the industrialisation of productive farms for fossil fuel extraction projects, and schemes by profit-motivated LNP government members such as the Murray Darling water rorts.

Months of recent undermining of Dan Andrews' messaging around the Co-vid19 threat put 5 million Victorians at risk with right wing populism and ignorant opposing of the science, while using personal attacks and smears to denigrate him and confuse the public at a time of great vulnerability in that state and in the rest of Australia. Murdoch outlets have recently promulgated false information that has gone uncorrected in The Australian and The Herald Sun re suicide rates and Black Lives Matter protests.

Murdoch media is a threat to Australian democracy. It constantly seeks to undermine our values of equality, tolerance, social cohesion, generosity, kindness and support to others and to negatively influence people's understanding of what is in their best interests.

Murdoch buying out and closing regional newspapers has deprived regional people of local information and jobs, while getting government handouts and clearing the way for partisan Murdoch misinformation messaging via Sky News. Murdoch's News Ltd now owns 70% of Australia's newspapers, the only cable news network, Nova Radio network as well as online publications.

Australia needs a strong, diverse, multicultural media. We need a Royal Commission into Murdoch's destruction of our democracy.

Please help.