

*Treasury Laws Amendment (News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code) Bill 2020
(the News Media Bargaining Code)*

Questions on notice

1. Does Junkee believe that Instagram and YouTube should be included in the Code? (Senator Hanson Young)

We thank the Senator for her question. Currently, Junkee are agnostic as to the inclusion of either Instagram or YouTube in the Code. One of the challenges, however, for legislators engaging in this dynamic area of work is that there is an ongoing risk of the law failing to keep pace with the technology. We would encourage the drafters of the Code to ensure that there is a regular opportunity for review of those who should be covered by the Code without the burden of a legislative overhaul if change is required. One potential way to achieve that and therefore future-proof the legislation is to empower regulatory bodies with the authority to undertake consultations with media players and, if required and if key criteria is met, add organisations to the Code. To ensure both independence and transparency, we recommend that two regulatory bodies work together (for instance, the ACCC with the ACMA). We also recommend that the criteria for adding organisations to the Code be clearly articulated in the Explanatory Note or other additional materials accompanying the legislation.

2. Did Junkee apply for the PING program? (Senator Hanson Young)

Again, we thank the Senator for her question. Junkee did not apply for the Public Interest News Gathering (PING) program as we did not meet the eligibility requirements; PING aims to support the continued production of high-quality news in regional and remote areas of Australia.