

APPENDIX K

**TREASURER'S LETTERS
RE: PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY**



TREASURER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT

Senator Richard Alston
Chair
Senate Select Committee on Certain Aspects
of Foreign Ownership Decisions in relation
to the Print Media
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 FEB 1994

Dear Senator Alston

I refer to your Committee's requirement that an officer of my department produce to it certain documents containing Foreign Investment Review Board (the Board) recommendations and advice to the Treasurer in relation to foreign ownership levels of the print media and documents relating to correspondence and contacts by interested parties and other persons. The purpose of my now writing is to inform you of the Government's decisions on the Committee's requests.

There are three categories of documents:

1. Confidential advice from the Board or the Treasury to the Government - the Government is not prepared to provide such material to the Committee, because to do so would be contrary to the public interest.
2. Documents revealing information provided to the Government in confidence, to the release of which originators or affected parties object - the Government is not prepared to release these because to do so would be contrary to the public interest.
3. Information or documents given to the Government in confidence, to the release of which the originators or affected parties do not object - the Government is prepared to release these.

Category 1.

The documents the Government is not prepared to produce comprise confidential advice to the Treasurer, in relation first, to applications by Mr Conrad Black's Tourang Limited (Tourang) and Mr O'Reilly's INP Consortium Limited (INP) seeking approval to buy the John Fairfax Group Pty Ltd (Fairfax) and, second, an application by The Telegraph to increase the ownership level. The documents are, variously, annotated 'Confidential - limited access only', 'Highly protected' or 'Protected - limited access only'.

The Board plays a unique and major role in the public interest by advising the Government on foreign investment matters generally and in examining proposals by foreign interests for investment in Australia and in making recommendations to the Government on those proposals. The Board is an advisory, non-statutory body comprising currently four members. The Board assists me in the administration of the Government's foreign investment policy, principally by giving me confidential advice on proposals by foreign interests to invest in Australia. Board members are appointed by me after approval by the Cabinet, generally for a term of three years. The Board members have extensive experience in business, Government or labour relations and are persons of undoubted integrity and impartiality.

The Board's advice and opinions and the expression of members' views are considered by the Government and the Board to be confidential to the deliberative process. The expectation of confidentiality is inherent in the conditions of appointment of Board members. That understanding of confidentiality is integral to inter departmental, inter agency and inter Governmental consultations in this area because it provides the most favourable conditions for frank and candid advice to me in the administration of the Government's foreign investment policy. The opinion and comment relate to the commercial activities of the parties to the proposal and, if released, could be used by competitors and others in a manner detrimental to the parties' commercial interests. The inter departmental, inter agency and inter Governmental consultations are conducted on the basis that views expressed in confidence will be protected.

It is implicit in the terms of appointment and understood by Board members that advice tendered to the Government on foreign investment proposals is strictly confidential. The Board has given its views to successive Treasurers on a considerable number of cases since its establishment in 1976. The views of individual Board members on a proposal have never been released.

To release the Board's views, opinions and recommendations could be embarrassing and damaging to Board members when those views were given in confidence as part of the deliberative process of Government. Making public such views would subject members to public comment and criticism when the matters under consideration and on which advice was being given were never intended or understood to be for external consumption. The potential for stigma to be attached to members' views could also have adverse consequences for members' reputations and commercial and business interests. Moreover, it is likely that senior and respected business people and other persons of distinction would be unwilling to serve on the Board if they knew that there was a risk that their confidential advice would be revealed.

Consistent with the above, in relation to the Committee's requests, I have directed my department that officials should not provide to the Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information or advice provided in confidence by the Board and the Treasury to the Government. I have similarly directed Mr F.G.H. Pooley, a former official of my department.

Category 2.

In the examination of foreign investment proposals, the Executive to the Board receives, on behalf of the Board, written submissions from foreign investors providing details of their investment plans, proposed arrangements for ownership and control of businesses and industries, reasons for proposals, claimed benefits associated with proposals, industry information and other information which may be relevant to the Board's consideration of the proposals against the Government's statement of foreign investment policy.

In the operation of the examination process, the Board relies on the co-operation of investors and potential investors and interested parties to provide information necessary for the evaluation of proposals. Much of the information is provided on a commercial-in-confidence basis and could give an unfair benefit to their competitors, to investors generally, or to prospective new entrants in the market, should it be released. Comment provided by third parties is also used to verify industry facts, legitimacy of claims concerning business interests and activities and could, if divulged, injure the interests of some or all of the parties concerned. With the exception of such information as is readily available from public sources (for example the statutory accounts of companies), it is the practice of the Board and the Executive to treat all information received in the course of considering a proposal under the Government's foreign investment policy in strict confidence. That is, details of a proposal are not disclosed to persons other than those from whom it originated except in special circumstances for purposes connected with furthering consideration of the proposal, and where the

relevant parties' consent is first obtained. Where information is received from other parties concerning a proposal that information is similarly protected.

For the information and guidance of foreign investors, authorisation has been given for the distribution of a booklet published by the Treasury entitled *Australia's Foreign Investment Policy - A Guide for Investors*. The booklet, which is widely distributed and readily available, states:

"The Government fully recognises that much of the information which the Board will need in order to assess its attitude to a particular proposal will be sensitive commercial-in-confidence information. The Government will respect this confidential status and will award it appropriate security to ensure that it remains so.

In the event that action is taken by third parties to obtain access to confidential information held by the Government, it will not be made available without the permission of the person who first gave the information to the Board, except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction. In this respect the Government will in the ordinary course pursue the defence of its policy through the courts."

Attached to this letter is a schedule of documents relevant to the Committee's requests. Some of these documents were provided on a confidential basis as described above, and I consider that it would be against the public interest to release them to the Committee without authorisation from the originators or affected parties. My department has been consulting the affected parties and, while some are prepared to agree to material being released others may not, while others will only do so provided that I request the Committee to respect the confidential status of the documents. In accordance with the understandings of those providing confidential information to the Board and Treasury on foreign investment proposals that such will remain confidential, should any originator or affected party object to their release to the Committee even on a confidential basis, I feel bound to respect their views.

Accordingly, I have directed my department that officials should not provide to the Committee whether orally or by way of documents, information provided in confidence to the Board and the Treasury, where originators or affected parties indicate that they object to the release of the information. I have similarly directed Mr F.G.H. Pooley, a former official of my department.

Category 3.

The consultations necessary before any release can be made have been put in train and the Committee will be advised as quickly as possible of the outcome. As stated above some of the originators or affected parties have agreed to release their documents provided a request is made of the Committee that it safeguard their confidential nature; others may make similar requests. I note your statement at the Committee's hearing on 4 February 1994 that the Committee would not automatically publish or release material provided to it if the originators or affected parties approached the Committee with their concerns. I trust the Committee will honour these requests.

Yours sincerely



Ralph Willis

ATTACHMENT

DOCUMENTS CONDITIONALLY APPROVED FOR RELEASE TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE

File A

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
1	Mr P J Hunt BT Corporate Finance	Executive Member FIRB	19 Nov 1991	INP's application to acquire the Fairfax Group	209
2	BT Corporate Finance	Media Release	19 Nov 1991	Media Release announcing structure of Fairfax bid	6
3	Executive Member FIRB	Mr P Field Dept of Transport & Communications	26 Nov 1991	General liaison letter seeking comments on Tourang Ltd and INP proposed acquisition of the Fairfax Group	1
4	Mr P J Hunt BT Corporate Finance Ltd	Executive Member FIRB	4 Dec 1991	Revision of INP's application to acquire the Fairfax Group	351
5				The Fairfax Charter	1
6	Executive Member FIRB	Mr P J Hunt BT Corporate	9 Dec 1991	Advice letter stating that the Government has no objections to INP acquiring the Fairfax Group	4
7	The Treasurer Mr Willis	Press Release	13 Dec 1991	Media Release announcing approval of the restructured Fairfax bid	1

File B

Doc No	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
1	Mr S Chipkin Freehill Hollingdale & Page	20 Jan 1992	Copy of a letter sent to the Treasurer by Hellman and Friedman	5
2	Mr A C Harris Treasurer's Office	22 Jan 1992	Letter concerning Hellman & Friedman's request to increase its economic interest in Fairfax	2
3	Executive Member FIRB	27 April 1992	Letter advising that the Government will not object to small foreign portfolio shareholdings in Fairfax	1
4	Executive Member FIRB	27 April 1992	Advice letter that the Government has no objections to a revised proposal by Tourang to acquire Fairfax	1
5	Mr S Chipkin Freehill Hollingdale & Page	30 April 1992	Fax indicating that Freehill Hollingdale & Page has received FIRB advice of the 30 April 1992	1
6	Mr S Chipkin Freehill Hollingdale & Page	30 April 1992	Issues concerning Fairfax Group	1

File C

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
1	Frechill Hollingdale & Page Mr S Chipkin	Executive Member FIRB	11 Dec 1992	Application by "The Telegraph" to increase its interest in Fairfax to 25%. Attachments (1) Charter of Editorial Independence (2) Section 26 Notice	5 1 8
2	Frechill Hollingdale & Page Mr S Chipkin	Executive Member FIRB	11 Dec 1992	Fax cover for above application also notifying the courting of Fairfax Annual Report	1
3				Copies of News Articles	3
4	Executive Member FIRB	Mr Chipkin Frechill Hollingdale & Page	12 Jan 1993	Advice that Treasurer had signed an Interim Order prohibiting the acquisition for up to 90 days.	2
5			28 Jan 1993	News Article	1
6	AGPS Gazette Office	FIRB	20 Jan 1993	Gazetial of notice	1
7			12 Jan 1993	Copies of News Articles	2
8	Treasurer Mr Dawkins		11 Jan 1993	Copy of Interim Order	1
9		Press Release	23 Apr 1992	Small portfolio holdings	1

File C (continued)

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Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
10	Mr A. C. Harris Treasurer's Office	Mr Warren Hellman Freehill Hollingdale & Page	22 Jan 1992	Advice concerning request to increase interest in John Fairfax Holdings Limited	1
11	Treasurer Mr Willis	Press Release	13 Dec 1991	Approval of Restructured Tourang Proposal	1
12	Executive Member FIRB	Mr S Chipkin Freehill Hollingdale & Page	16 Dec 1991	Approval of Revised Tourang Proposal	1
13	Mr Robert McKay Managing Director AIN	Executive Member FIRB	5 Dec 1991	AIN bid for Fairfax	2
14	* Mr Robert McKay Managing Director AIN	Executive Member FIRB	2 Oct 1991	AIN bid for Fairfax	2
15	Mr Mark Johnson * Macquarie Hill Samuel	Executive Member	13 Aug 1991	Brief of features of AIN Proposal	3
16			28 & 29 Jan 1993	Copies of News Articles	2
17				Copies of News Articles	9
18	Executive Member	Mr S Chipkin Freehill Hollingdale & Page	20 April 1993	Copy of Press Release on foreign ownership of mass circulation newspapers	2
19				Copies of press articles	4

* Documents submitted to the Committee by AIN

File C (continued)

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
20	Executive Member	Mr S Chipkin Freshhill Hollingdale & Page	21 April 1993	Advice letter that the Government had no objections to the Telegraph's application	1
21				Copies of press articles	13
22			May 1993	Copies of press articles	3
23			13 May 1993	Copy of Hansard - Question from Senator Hill to Senator Evvins	1
24				Copies of press articles	5

File D

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
1	Treasurer	PRESS RELEASE	10 Oct 1991	Press Release on Print Media decision	1
2	Executive Member	Communications Law Centre	27 Nov 1991	Fairfax Bidders and Foreign Investment Policy advice	1
3	Communications Law Centre	Executive Member	21 Nov 1991	Letter requesting info re Fairfax Bidders and Foreign Investment Policy	2
4	TPC	Executive Member	26 Nov 1991	Fax with copy of ABT Media Release	2
5	Executive Member	Dept of Transport & Communications	Nov 1991	Request for comment on the proposals by Tourang and INP Consortium	1
6	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	1 Nov 1991	Application by Tourang for Fairfax Group	3
7	Barrng Brothers Burrows & Co	Executive Member	5 Nov 1991	Letter concerning Fairfax reorganisation	3
8	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	6 Nov 1991	Letter requesting more information about consortium documentation	2
9	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	7 Nov 1991	Letter concerning Tourang application	133
10	Executive Member	Dept of Transport and Communications	26 Nov 1991	Request for comment on the proposals by Tourang and INP Consortium	14
11	TPC	Executive Member	26 Nov 1991	Fax concerning financial stats on paper reports (incomplete fax)	5

File D (continued)

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Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
12	TPC	Executive Member	26 Nov 1991	Fax concerning financial status on paper reports	9
13	TPC	Executive Member	26 Nov 1991	Incomplete fax re The Age Classified Volume	3
14	Executive Member	Mr Frith		Extracts from "Guide for Investors"	4
15	Baring Brothers Burrows & Co	Executive Member	5 Nov 1991	Fax concerning Fairfax reorganisation	4
16	ABT	Executive Member		Chart relating to Consolidated Press and its network associates	2
17	The Australian	News clipping	19 Jul 1991	"Foreign snag in Packer's bid"	2
18	Baring Brothers Burrows & Partners	Executive Member	13 Feb 1991	Letter relating to the current position with relation to Fairfax	13
19	Treasurer	PRESS RELEASE	10 Oct 1991	Print Media Decision	1
20	The Age Newspaper		5 Aug 1991	Press Article relating to the Media and its ownership and control	12
21	Freehill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	26 Nov 1991	Request for more information in relation to JFG and Consolidated Press Holdings	77
22-24			various	Press Articles	1
25	Freehill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	4 May 1992	Fax acknowledging receipt of letter of 31/4/92	2

File D (continued)

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
26	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	30 Apr 1992	Faxed copy of letter re Fairfax and junk bondholders	2
27	Prudential Bache	Executive Member	30 Mar 1992	Foreign ownership of mass circulation newspapers	1
28	Treasurer	PRESS RELEASE	10 Oct 1991	Print Media Decision	1
29-31			various	Press Articles	3
32	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	27 Apr 1992	Advice letter re portfolio holdings	1
33	Executive Member	Prudential-Bache	27 Apr 1992	Advice letter re Govt. decision on Tourang and the listing of Fairfax on ASX	1
34	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	24 Apr 1992	Fax re Press Release on Fairfax Newspaper Group	2
35-61			various	Press Articles	30
62	Office of the Treasurer	Hellman & Friedman	22 Jan 1992	Tourang's request for approval to increase interest in Fairfax (Tourang III)	1
63	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	The Treasurer	20 Jan 1992	Fax concerning Hellman & Friedman's proposal	5
64	Treasurer	PRESS RELEASE	13 Dec 1991	Fairfax restructured application approved under foreign investment policy	1

File D (continued)

Doc No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description	No of pages
65	Communications Law Centre	Executive Member	5 Dec 1991	Fairfax Bidders and Foreign Investment Policy	5
66	Executive Member	ABT, Sydney		Faxed copy of Press Release re restructured application for Fairfax	2
67	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	16 Dec 1991	Letter re approval for Tourang's II proposal	1
68	Treasurer's Office	PRESS RELEASE	13 Dec 1991	Copy of press release re restructuring of Fairfax	1
69	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	11 Dec 1991	Fax of revised Tourang II proposal	4
70	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	9 Dec 1991	Rejection letter concerning Tourang I proposal	1
71	Executive Member	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	9 Dec 1991	Fax re rejection letter to Tourang's I bid	2
72	Baring Brothers Burrows & Co	Executive Member	6 Dec 1991	Letter re background on AIN	7
73	AIN	Executive Member	6 Dec 1991	Fax re Fairfax Group and final bids	3
74	AIN	Executive Member	5 Dec 1991	Original of fax dated 6/12/91	2
75	TPC	Executive Member	4 Dec 1991	Fax re TPC's investigations into the acquisition of the Fairfax group	2
76	Frechill Hollingdale & Page	Executive Member	3 Dec 1991	Fax re letter from Tourang indicating its outlook on various business prospects	7



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TREASURER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA NSW

Mr F.G.H. Pooley
Commissioner
Insurance and Superannuation Commission
212 Northbourne Avenue
BRADDON ACT 2601

10 FEB 1994

Dear Mr Pooley

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP
DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE PRINT MEDIA**

I hereby direct you as a former Treasury official not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information or advice provided in confidence by the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury to the government on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Furthermore, I hereby direct you not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information provided in confidence to the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Willis

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TREASURER OFFICE *** SECRETARIAT-131

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TREASURER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

Mr E.A. Evans
Secretary to the Treasury
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 FEB 1994

Dear Secretary

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP
DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE PRINT MEDIA**

I hereby direct you and all officers of the Treasury not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information or advice provided in confidence by the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury to the government on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Furthermore, I hereby direct you and all officers of the Treasury not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information provided in confidence to the Board and the Treasury on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy, other than those documents I have approved for release and to the release of which the originators or affected parties have indicated they do not object. Attached is a copy of the schedule attached to my letter of 10 February 1994 to the Chairman of the Committee, which lists those documents I have conditionally approved for release.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Willis
Ralph Willis

Mr. Highton

Please note the

*Treasurer's direction in
your appearance before the
Committee*
E/p

*CC Inquiries
Jim Head
Ms Dent*



TREASURER

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

Senator Richard Alston
Chair
Senate Select Committee on Certain Aspects
of Foreign Ownership Decisions in relation
to the Print Media
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

18 FEB 1994

Dear Senator Alston

Further to my letter of 10 February 1994 to you on matters connected with information and documents sought by your Committee, I am now writing to inform you of action I have taken with respect to two members of the Foreign Investment Review Board.

In view of the Committee's interest in Board members attending public hearings of the Committee, I have reminded the members of their duty not to disclose information received by them, or communicated by them to the Government. I have advised the members that in view of the public interest immunity existing in respect of these matters, I consider their duty of confidence precludes them from providing information to the Committee on the views, advice or recommendations they provided to me, other past Treasurers or the Government. Copies of my letters to the members are attached.

I wish also to draw to your and the Committee's attention the most unfortunate position in which you could be placing Board members as regards their clear duty of confidence as Board members, especially in view of the intimidatory remarks made by Senator Kernot last weekend in relation to the possible gaoling of witnesses.

I suggest it is unreasonable behaviour on the part of the Committee to insist on placing Board members in such a position in the knowledge that, as they have already informed you, their position of trust precludes them from giving the type of evidence the Committee seeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Willis'.

Ralph Willis



TREASURER

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

Mr K C Stone, AO
Acting Chairman
Foreign Investment Review Board
c/- The Treasury
Parkes Place
CANBERRA ACT 2600

18 FEB 1994

Dear Mr Stone

I understand you have seen my letters of 10 February 1994 to the Secretary to the Treasury and to the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Certain Aspects of Foreign Ownership Decisions in relation to the Print Media which include my statements and directions in relation to information sought by the Committee. I am writing to you and your colleague on the Board, Mr Halsted, to acquaint you personally with my views on this matter.

As I explained in my letter to the Committee Chairman, I consider that the Board plays a unique and major role in the public interest by advising me and the Government on foreign investment matters generally, in examining proposals by foreign interests for investment in Australia and in making recommendations to the Government on those proposals.

Confidentiality is inherent in your conditions of appointment as a Board member. Like the confidentiality that is integral to inter departmental, inter agency and inter Governmental consultations in this area, it provides the most favourable conditions for frank and candid advice to me in the administration of the Government's foreign investment policy. The fact that the advice you and your colleagues provide is and remains confidential, gives me confidence that the Board members will be free to proffer that advice comfortable in the knowledge that there will be no public or unintended consequences. I see this characteristic as being fundamental to the role and functions of the Board.

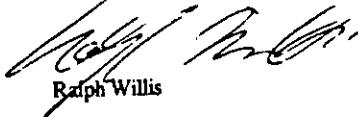
I view also the Committee's attempt to delve into advice given in confidence to government with the utmost concern given the impact it could have on current and future workings of the Board. Making the Board's views public could subject members to public comment and criticism when the matters under consideration and on which advice was being given were never intended or understood to be for external consumption. Moreover, it is likely that senior and respected business people and other persons of distinction would be unwilling to serve on the Board if they knew that there was a risk that their confidential advice would be revealed.

In relation to the Committee's request that you attend public hearings, I would like to remind you of your duty as a Board member not to disclose information received by you, or communications made by you to the Government. The Committee might question you on the views, advice or recommendations you provided to me, other past Treasurers or the Government. In view of the

public interest immunity that exists in respect of these matters. I consider your duty of confidence precludes you from providing the answers to such questions.

In view of the Committee's further approaches to you, I have decided to provide the Chairman of the Committee with copies of this letter and that to Mr Halsted, in order to ensure that the Committee is in no doubt as to the Government's continuing stand on these issues and to draw to their attention as well the position they could be placing you in as regards your duty of confidence as a Board member.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Willis', written in a cursive style.

Ralph Willis



TREASURER

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

Senator Richard Alston
Chair
Senate Select Committee on Certain Aspects
of Foreign Ownership Decisions in relation
to the Print Media
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

20 APR 1994

Dear Senator Alston

Further to my letter of 10 February 1994 to you on matters connected with information and documents sought by your Committee, I am now writing to inform you of action I have taken with respect to Dr Darryl Roberts, a former Treasury officer and now Assistant Commissioner with the Insurance and Superannuation Commission.

I have directed Dr Roberts not provide to the Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information or advice provided in confidence by the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury to the government on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy, or information provided in confidence to the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Attached is a copy of my letter to Dr Roberts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ralph Willis'.

Ralph Willis



TREASURER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA NSW

*Public
R.S. 2/1/4*

Dr D. Roberts
Assistant Commissioner
Insurance and Superannuation Commission
212 Northbourne Avenue
BRADDON ACT 2601

20 APR 1994

Dear Dr Roberts

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP
DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE PRINT MEDIA

I hereby direct you as a former Treasury official not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information or advice provided in confidence by the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury to the government on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Furthermore, I hereby direct you not to provide to the Senate Select Committee, whether orally or by way of provision of documents, information provided in confidence to the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Treasury on matters associated with the 1991 and 1993 decisions on the Fairfax Group under the government's foreign investment policy.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Willis