

As Crikey stated to you, "removing or weakening the cross media rules will reduce the number of "media of influence". The importance of the cross media rules is not about the number of commercial media owners, it is about the number of media outlets which have the power to influence the public debate. Most media companies don't have that influence because they're in the entertainment business, not the news and current affairs business. The substantive "media of influence" are daily newspapers -- which set the news agenda, publish editorials, run campaigns and are highly influential in their communities -- and a handful of TV current affairs and radio talkback programs. If the new laws lead to a reduction in the number of owners of these "media of influence", media power will concentrate in even fewer hands. Furthermore, how can a law that legislates for the minimum number of media owners in the country's major markets to be cut from 11 to five be described as anything other than reducing diversity of media ownership?"

2. Weakening cross media rules will result in far fewer journalists, fewer publications, fewer jobs and far greater power for those who remain and they will be the mates of the federal government a listed above

3. Weakening cross media rules is against the spirit of a true democracy. A small fourth estate becomes one easily manipulated and controlled by the enemies of freedom and free information or are you saying that communist China is free and fair. Oh my gosh, Tenpin Square never happened, according to their own media. Ahh but such a reduced media would fake more "children overboard" stories and other lies to manipulate the people.

A T Kenos

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**Dear Senators**

**It concerns me deeply that the federal government is seeking to change media ownership laws in Australia and, put bluntly, the reasons are nefarious. After all, look at the very close relationship between J W Howard and the Packers, Look at who he was din in with on September 11. Look at who sat with him and Janette at his parliamentary dinner. And also look at his mega support from staffer Niki Savva, from G Milne, P Ackerman, A Bolt, bosom buddy N Mitchell, certain Sydney broadcasters...**