

**PRESIDENT**

Andrew Manuel  
Plains Producer  
Telephone: 0407 715 593  
Email: [am@plainsproducer.com.au](mailto:am@plainsproducer.com.au)

**MELBOURNE SECRETARIAT**

1<sup>st</sup> floor, 163 Epsom Road, Flemington 3031  
Postal Address: Locked Bag 1000, Ascot Vale, 3032  
Telephone: (03) 8387 5500  
Facsimile: (03) 9372 2792  
Email: [bmorgan@vcpa.com.au](mailto:bmorgan@vcpa.com.au)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Bruce Morgan

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights United States Senate  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Thursday, 1 September 2022*

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Lee,

Country Press Australia has been closely watching H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA).

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy. Yet the control of access to trustworthy news online has become concentrated, creating a digital marketplace which sets the rules for news publishers and to a great extent determines how journalism is displayed, prioritised, and monetised.

Small and local publishers operate under unbalanced terms set by digital platforms, which profit from this.

It is our view that JCPA would help address these problems in the United States by allowing publishers to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism will ensure equitable compensation to all small and local publishers in the United States.

We've seen a similar approach work here in Australia where publishers are being compensated fairly for the content their journalists produce under the News Media Bargaining Code (NMBC). The NMBC, like the JCPA, was conceived as a tool to level the playing field between publishers and tech giants in order to create a more sustainable foundation for the preservation of high-quality journalism and has helped achieve that goal faster than expected in Australia.

It is important to act now, not just because small publishers are struggling, but to protect quality journalism across the world and ensure that the people who create journalistic content are compensated fairly for their often-painstaking work which has the ability to bring communities together and hold those in power to account.



A0039941U  
ABN 24 502 081 084

**PRESIDENT**

Andrew Manuel  
Plains Producer  
Telephone: 0407 715 593  
Email: [am@plainsproducer.com.au](mailto:am@plainsproducer.com.au)

**MELBOURNE SECRETARIAT**

1<sup>st</sup> floor, 163 Epsom Road, Flemington 3031  
Postal Address: Locked Bag 1000, Ascot Vale, 3032  
Telephone: (03) 8387 5500  
Facsimile: (03) 9372 2792  
Email: [bmorgan@vcpa.com.au](mailto:bmorgan@vcpa.com.au)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Bruce Morgan

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news in the U.S. – is too great. We urge you and your colleagues to support news publishers across the United States by supporting the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Manuel", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

.....  
Andrew Manuel,  
President