

## STATEMENT ON OUTLOOK FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR

**SYDNEY, March 22, 2001** – Mr Fred Hilmer, Chief Executive Officer of John Fairfax Holdings limited [ASX:FXJ], today issued the following statement on the Company's outlook for the full financial year:

“Over the last few weeks, it has become apparent that the economy has slowed substantially, and that the normal post-Christmas recovery in trading activity has not occurred. This has affected a number of advertising market segments, including employment, national display and real estate.

“In the Company's half year results issued on February 16, I stated that, ‘... with moderate growth in the economy, we expect the second half results to be stronger than the first half, with profit for the full year (excluding gains from associates and asset sales) below that of last year.’

“As we no longer expect moderate growth in the economy to be evident for at least the balance of this financial year, it is now apparent that the Company's profit in the second half will be below that of the first half.

“We are pleased, however, that the measures we announced last November to contain costs are being implemented successfully. These measures, which include reducing staff levels through attrition, controls on discretionary spending, and reduced use of newsprint will result in the cost base in the current period being below that of the second half of last year.”

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