

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SYDNEY, 10 October, 2005: – Mr Ronald Walker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of John Fairfax Holdings Limited [ASX:FXJ], issued the following statement today:

"We congratulate Brian Evans on his appointment as the new CEO of PMP. Brian has been with Fairfax for 12 years and during that time he has performed with distinction. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well in his new role."

"As an immediate measure, David Kirk, our incoming Chief Executive Officer, will assume direct responsibility for the Australian operations previously under the authority of Brian Evans. David welcomes the opportunity to be directly involved with the businesses and operating issues from the outset of his role as CEO, and this will provide him with the strongest possible start. David will start with Fairfax on 17 October, and not 21 November as previously announced.

"Fairfax has great depth of management in the company, built up over many years. The company's succession planning enables us to continue to fill key management positions internally.

"The Board looks forward to working with David Kirk and helping take Fairfax forward in anticipation of new opportunities in the media landscape in 2006.

-- ENDS --

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