



RURAL PRESS LIMITED

ABN 47 000 010 382

5 April 2007

Company Announcements Office
ASX Limited
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

RURAL PRESS PREFERRED SCHEME MEETING

The Preferred Shareholders of Rural Press Limited (**Rural Press**) voted in favour of the scheme of arrangement between Rural Press and its Preferred Shareholders (**Preferred Scheme**) in relation to the proposed merger with Fairfax Media Limited at the Preferred Scheme meeting held earlier today.

The particulars of the voting were as follows:

Votes Cast	Number of Preferred Shareholders		Number of Votes	
For	1,139	97.68%	61,928,320	99.79%
Against	27	2.32%	127,953	0.21%
Abstain	5		17,127	

The resolution was carried by the requisite majorities.

The proxy votes received for the meeting were as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Proxy Discretion
Holders	953	26	5	193
Votes	58,592,600	117,563	17,127	2,178,380

Please find attached a release relating to the outcome of the Preferred Scheme meeting.

Yours faithfully

Barry Stofberg
Company Secretary



RURAL PRESS LIMITED

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Thursday 5 April 2007

RURAL PRESS PREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE PREFERRED SCHEME

The Preferred Shareholders of Rural Press Limited (**Rural Press**) today voted in favour of the scheme of arrangement between Rural Press and its Preferred Shareholders (**Preferred Scheme**) in relation to the proposed merger with Fairfax Media Limited (**Fairfax Media**).

The outcome of the vote saw 97.68% of Preferred Shareholders who voted, vote in favour of the Preferred Scheme, representing 99.79% of the total Preferred Shares that were voted. Both of these results were significantly above the minimum requirements to approve the Preferred Scheme.

The merger (including the Preferred Scheme) remains contingent on the outcome of the proposed scheme of arrangement between Rural Press and its Ordinary Shareholders (**Ordinary Scheme**), for which the meeting is to be held at 10.00am on 19 April 2007 at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, 61-101 Phillip Street, Sydney (**Ordinary Scheme Meeting**).

The Chairman of Rural Press, John B Fairfax, said "Today's result is an important first step to approving the merger with Fairfax Media and represents a major vote of confidence by our shareholders for the merger. The Board remains of the view that the schemes are in the best interest of all Rural Press shareholders, in the absence of a superior proposal".

The merger with Fairfax Media will create a major Australasian integrated metropolitan, regional and rural print and digital media business with a unified commitment to quality journalism while continuing to maintain strong connections with the communities served.

Next Steps

The next step is for Ordinary Shareholders of Rural Press to vote on the Ordinary Scheme at the Ordinary Scheme Meeting at 10.00am on 19 April 2007.

Subject to the requisite majority of Ordinary Shareholders voting in favour of the Ordinary Scheme, final approval of the schemes will be sought from the Federal Court of Australia on 23 April 2007.

An indicative timetable for the outstanding key steps for the implementation of the merger (which has not changed) is as follows:

Date and Time	Event
19 April 2007, 10.00am	Ordinary Scheme Meeting
23 April 2007	Second Court Date for approval of the Schemes
24 April 2007	Ordinary Shares and Preferred Shares cease trading at close of trading on ASX
2 May 2007	Record date for determining entitlements to the scheme consideration and special dividends declared on 8 February 2007
8 May 2007	Expected date of payment of the special dividends
9 May 2007	Implementation of the schemes including Fairfax Media issuing new Fairfax Media shares and payment of cash consideration

Further Information

Please contact the Shareholder Information Line on 1300 782 565 (if calling within Australia) or +613 9415 4122 (if calling from outside Australia).

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