

Directors' Report for the half year ended 31 December 2000

John Fairfax Holdings Limited and Controlled Entities

The directors present their report for the half year ended 31 December 2000.

Directors

The directors of the Company in office at the date of this report are:

Mr Brian Powers (Non-Executive Chairman)

Mr Jonathan Pinshaw (Non-Executive Deputy Chairman)

Mr Mark Burrows (Non-Executive Director)

Sir Roderick Carnegie (Non-Executive Director)

Mr David Gonski (Non-Executive Director)

Mr Frederick Hilmer (Chief Executive)

Mrs Julia King (Non-Executive Director)

Mr David Shein (Non-Executive Director)

Mr Dean Wills (Non-Executive Director)

All directors shown were in office from the beginning of the half year until the date of this report.

Review & Results of Operations

Refer to the Press Release for a review of operations and results of the economic entity for the half year ended 31 December 2000.

Rounding Off

The amounts contained in this report and in the half-year financial report have been rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars under the option available to the Company under ASIC Class Order 98/0100. The Company is an entity to which this class order applies.

Signed at Sydney on 19 February 2001 in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Frederick Hilmer
Director and Chief Executive

Directors' Declaration

John Fairfax Holdings Limited and Controlled Entities

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of John Fairfax Holdings Limited, we state that -

In the opinion of the directors:

- (a) the financial statements and notes of the consolidated entity:
 - (i) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2000 and the performance for the half-year ended on that date of the consolidated entity; and
 - (ii) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Law; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the board

Frederick Hilmer
Director and Chief Executive

Sydney 19 February 2001

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Independent Review Report

To the members of John Fairfax Holdings Limited

Scope

We have reviewed the financial report of John Fairfax Holdings Limited in the form of Appendix 4B of the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) Listing Rules, as set out on pages 1 to 18 including the Directors' Declaration for the half-year ended 31 December 2000, but excluding the following sections:

- a) material factors affecting the revenues and expenses of the consolidated entity for the current period (page 14 of Appendix 4B);
- b) compliance statement (pages 15 and 16 of Appendix 4B) and notes set out on pages 16, 17 and 18.

The financial report includes the consolidated financial statements of the consolidated entity comprising John Fairfax Holdings Limited and the entities it controlled at the end of the half-year or from time to time during the half-year. The company's directors are responsible for the financial report. We have performed an independent review of the financial report in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that would indicate that the financial report is not presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1029: Half -Year Accounts and Consolidated Accounts and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia and ASX Listing Rules as they relate to Appendix 4B, and in order for the company to lodge the financial report with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the ASX.

Our review has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards applicable to review engagements. Our review was limited primarily to inquiries of the company's personnel and analytical review procedures applied to financial data. These procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, thus the level of assurance provided is less than that given in an audit. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Review Statement

As a result of our review, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half-year financial report, as defined in the scope section, of John Fairfax Holdings Limited is not in accordance with:

- (a) the Corporations Law, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 31 December 2000 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standard AASB 1029: Half-Year Accounts and Consolidated Accounts and the Corporations Regulations;
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements and ASX Listing Rules as they relate to Appendix 4B.

Ernst & Young

Brian Long
Partner

Sydney
Date: 19 February 2001