



RURAL PRESS LIMITED

ABN 47 000 010 382

19 April 2007

Company Announcements Office
ASX Limited
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

RURAL PRESS ORDINARY SCHEME MEETING

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

The particulars of the voting were as follows:

| Votes Cast | Number of Ordinary Shareholders | | Number of Votes | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| For | 2,868 | 96.47% | 95,743,132 | 99.62% |
| Against | 105 | 3.53% | 367,731 | 0.38% |
| Abstain | 28 | | 75,162 | |

The resolution was carried by the requisite majorities.

The proxy votes received for the meeting were as follows:

| | For | Against | Abstain | Proxy Discretion |
|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Holders | 2,410 | 106 | 28 | 473 |
| Votes | 93,150,007 | 367,731 | 75,162 | 2,086,735 |

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

Yours faithfully

Barry Stofberg
Company Secretary



RURAL PRESS LIMITED

ABN 47 000 010 382

Thursday 19 April 2007

RURAL PRESS ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE ORDINARY SCHEME

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

The outcome of the vote saw 96.47% of Ordinary Shareholders who voted, vote in favour of the Ordinary Scheme, representing 99.62% of the total Ordinary Shares that were voted. Both of these results were significantly above the minimum requirements to approve the Ordinary Scheme.

The outcome follows the vote by Rural Press Preferred Shareholders at the Preferred Scheme Meeting held on 5 April with 97.68% of Preferred Shareholders who voted, voting in favour of the Preferred Scheme, representing 99.79% of the total Preferred Shares that were voted.

The Chairman of Rural Press, John B Fairfax, said "Following the very positive result from the Preferred Scheme earlier this month, today's result is a positive outcome for Rural Press Shareholders. Having now received the approval of both classes of shareholders, we are nearing completion of the merger process with Fairfax Media".

The merger remains conditional on Federal Court approval of the Schemes. The ACCC announced on 18 April 2007 that it does not intend to oppose the merger having accepted Fairfax Media's undertaking to divest *The Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Post* and *The Hunter Post*.

Next Steps

The next step is for final approval of the schemes to be sought from the Federal Court of Australia on 23 April 2007.

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

| Date and Time | Event |
|-----------------------|--|
| 23 April 2007, 9.15am | Second Court Date for approval of the Schemes |
| 24 April 2007 | Effective Date of the Schemes |
| 24 April 2007, 7.00pm | Latest date and time for lodgement of Consideration Election Form |
| 24 April 2007 | Ordinary Shares and Preferred Shares cease trading at close of trading on ASX |
| 26 April 2007 | Fairfax Media Shares to be issued pursuant to the Schemes (New Fairfax Media Shares) commence trading on deferred settlement basis |
| 2 May 2007, 5.00pm | Expected record date for determining entitlements to the scheme consideration and special dividends declared on 8 February 2007 (Special Dividends) |
| 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 |
| 9 May 2007 | Despatch of holding statements for New Fairfax Media Shares |
| 10 May 2007 | Trading of New Fairfax Media Shares on a normal settlement basis |

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).