

An open letter to Premier Palaszczuk

# Please don't kill off Queensland's independent newspaper revival.

Dear Premier Palaszczuk,

At a time when the Queensland government should be celebrating and supporting the strong revival of independent newspapers currently underway in our state, it appears you're trying to kill it off.

There are now more independent regional newspaper publishers in Queensland than there has been in decades, with new papers emerging to fill the void left by closures made by News Corp.

But the new law proposed by your government threatens that resurgence and the greatly improved news media diversity it has brought to regional Queensland.

The Victorian government has recently committed an extra \$4.5million to an already healthy budget for regional newspaper advertising in that state, so why would you consider passing a law that will cut even further the relatively tiny support the Queensland government provides to regional independent newspapers?

Why do you want to funnel more state government advertising away from locally owned and independent newspaper publishers providing a critical service to regional Queenslanders to digital news sites owned predominately by global news corporations.

The law would also be a massive blow to government transparency, with important notices such as mining lease approvals and amendments to land use being published on government websites away from public gaze instead of being printed in local newspapers, as currently required by law.

Premier, the resurgence of local independent regional newspapers currently underway in Queensland is a great thing for our state – please don't kill it off.

Sincerely,

**Phill Le Petit**

President, QCPA.

