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Radio Broadcasters Association Applaud Merger Announcement

Radio Broadcasters Association CEO Jana Rangooni says the radio industry is pleased the Government has decided not to continue with the RNZ / TVNZ merger in its current form.

The radio industry believes the current legislation was rushed and left too much ambiguity around things like editorial independence, public media versus commercial outcomes and the impact the new entity would have on the media landscape in New Zealand.

Rangooni says “We look forward to working with the Minister and officials to look at ways the Government can ensure there is a vibrant public and independent media landscape in New Zealand that has high degrees of trust and engagement.”

The industry wants the Government to ensure officials address the activities of the global giants like Google and Meta that are not under the same commercial or content regulatory frameworks as New Zealand media companies but are now taking well over half the advertising revenue in the country.

She says “As well as the big issues there are also simple things like overhauling the Broadcasting Act (1989) that still precludes NZ radio and television companies from running commercials on specific days like Christmas Day when our competitors at Google and Meta take revenue that New Zealand media companies are not allowed to”.

She goes on to say “for radio specifically, we have been trying to engage with the Government on spectrum payments and tenure which last time took over 10 years to negotiate. We hope with the merger off the table, Ministers and officials will now have time to address the wider industry issues required to build a stronger sector overall.”

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