

Submission to the ASIC Industry Funding Model and Registry Search Fees exposure draft recommendations consultation

From *The Australian*, News Corp

The Federal Government decision to exempt various materials from search fees is welcomed by *The Australian*. Our journalists access this material on a daily basis at substantial cost.

We are however concerned that some material will still attract charges, in a move that runs counter to the spirit of the proposed changes and to the public interest.

For example, under the current proposals, it would appear that journalists will continue to pay fees to access extracts from the financial accounts of publicly listed companies. This comprises a significant amount of the searches made by our journalists.

Given the vital public interest in our work, we believe that all registries over which the Federal Government has control should not attract a charge. Our ability to produce accurate coverage of corporate Australia is potentially hampered by what amounts to a tax on our work.

I would be happy to share more detail with you so that you can see how we use this information on a regular basis, and the costs involved.

Helen Trinca  
Managing Editor  
*The Australian*

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