

**ITEM A LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL AND DIVERSE MEDIA**

In light of the issues with Facebook and the continued decline and aggregation in the local media opportunities it is important that Council expresses its concerns.

The role of local diverse media to disseminate details and commentary on Local Government issues is very significant.

As with all levels of Government in a healthy transparent democracy it is important to maintain a diverse, competitive range of views based on sound journalism both commercial and public. To this end even Wollongong City Council will need to add its voice before it is too late.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 Wollongong City Council writes to the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Communication to indicate our concerns about threats to:
  - a The importance of regional media in the dissemination of local news and promotion of debate, transparency and accountability in Local Government
  - b The importance of media diversity and various platforms to maintain competition of views and debate in an informed democracy.
- 2 Wollongong City Council acknowledges that a healthy democracy needs both public and private media to disseminate news and commentary on easily accessible platforms.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.