

Alf,

I think your responses here and elsewhere are less than clear.

The pilot seeks to trial rules which, in their present form, preclude early returns. I have proposed an alternative set of rules to trial and while they do include no early returns, they also give newsagents control over range and title volume. The current trial does not do this.

Yes, you are right that I do not represent newsagents. However, I have been more open about harvesting newsagent views on this than you and the ANF. Your representation of consultation made at the ACCC conference an overstatement of the ANF actions. I am sure if you laid out exactly what you have done the ACCC would have struggled to consider it to be consultation.

You should have been on the front foot about those, hosting town hall meetings, online forums and driving deep engagement from newsagents about the proposed rules. As you saw at the ACCC conference, every newsagent who spoke disagreed with you.

You spend too much time trying to put down those who challenge you. I have written to Ann Nugent and to both you and Ann about what newsagents have said to me she is reported to have said publicly denigrating me.

Yu Chairman is on the record calling a newsagent to talk about me and challenge me - but he does not have the leadership to speak to me himself.

Your SA representative has visited newsagents putting me down for my challenge of the ANF position but he has never spoken to me about this.

This is not about me. It is about newsagents and that this trial continues to see newsagents treated differently than their competitors, treated in such a way as to hold back our ability to compete. Is this what the ANF wants? It seems like it based on your weak responses.

On this issue you have and the ANF more broadly have failed newsagents. You disagree, I get that.

Newsagents need the best people at the table. The ANF is not doing this, newsagents are being let down.

How about we host a public forum on this issue. You speak and I speak and newsagents can decide what they want on this issue of magazine supply. We can explore the many options available including this current ill-conceived trial.

How about it? I am not looking for a fight. rather, I am looking for newsagents to be fully informed in this matter which sits at the core of their businesses.

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