

21ST CENTURY FOX/SKY MERGER INQUIRY (PHASE 2)

Summary of a substantive confidential submission to the provisional findings

The CMA received one substantive submission which was addressed to the Prime Minister and marked as confidential. This submission was put forward by a previous employee of 21st Century Fox, Inc (Fox) and raised the following main points:

Allegations of sexual harassment at Fox News

- The submission disagreed with the CMA’s provisional finding in relation to its assessment framework for the broadcasting standards public interest consideration, and specifically, the weight given to allegations of sexual harassment at Fox News.
- The submission stated that the CMA’s approach was “another form of enabling and abetting systemic abuse of women at Fox News and 21st Century Fox.”
- The submission put forward the view that Rupert Murdoch and Fox have caused damage to “countless women and their careers” through their behaviour, and a reflected by content aired on Fox News.
- The submission cited examples of sexual harassment in other organisations as being enabled because of the lack of action taken / merit given to allegations at the time by those in oversight roles, and likened this to the CMA’s approach in its provisional findings.
- The submission pointed to Fox’s track record of dealing with allegations of sexual harassment and stated that this was often through financial settlements. The submission also cited incidences of content being aired on Fox News in 2017 and 2018 in relation to sexual harassment allegations as evidence to a particular attitude exhibited by Fox toward such matters.