

Response from a News Corp Australia spokesperson:

Australian newspapers have published court lists since the 1800s as an information service to the community, often on a dedicated services page which has included other utility information such as shipping times, the weather and commodity prices for wheat, cattle and sheep. The material contained in court lists is published by the courts themselves and are public documents. Their publication is entirely legitimate and reflects the media's role in helping ensure our justice system is open and transparent. We publish the names of those appearing in court, no detail is provided on charges and we delete the list after 12 months.

News Corp Australia's portfolio of hyperlocal mastheads publishes a variety of local information including daily weather forecasts, fuel prices, traffic and road hazard reports, school sports results, development applications, insolvency notices, local court and administrative appeals tribunal listings. This is an important part of our investment and commitment to local communities and in public interest journalism. Public information is the bedrock of a news and information business and our ability to edit, simplify and distribute that information in a convenient way is appreciated by our subscribers.