



**Media Release**

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## **DOMINION POST EDITOR MOVES TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS' GROUP**

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Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst has been appointed chief executive of the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

The role includes representing the newspaper industry as well as managing the New Zealand Press Association, the national news agency, and the Newspaper Advertising Bureau (NAB).

Mr Pankhurst, 54, has been editor of The Dominion Post since shortly after its founding in 2002 and previously edited The Evening Post, The Press and the Waikato Times. He is the country's longest serving daily editor after nearly 14 years running the four different titles.

Fairfax Media chief executive Joan Withers said Fairfax was extremely sorry to lose Mr Pankhurst as an editor but respected his decision to take on a new challenge after 14 highly successful years editing newspapers.

"Tim is an exceptional editor and with The Dominion Post in particular has carved out a reputation second to none in New Zealand. His work on stories such as the Louise Nicholas investigation and The Dominion Post's work last year on funding questions around New Zealand First have had a significant impact on New Zealand society. They are among the most significant newspaper investigations of the past 20 years and are testament to Tim's skill and courage as an editor.

"We did not want Tim to leave his post with Fairfax but we accept his decision to take on this significant role with the industry body and we look forward to working with him in that capacity."

The appointment was also welcomed by NPA chairman Michael Muir, managing director of the Gisborne Herald; APN (publishers of The New Zealand Herald) chief executive officer Martin Simons; and Otago Daily Times managing director Julian Smith.

They said Mr Pankhurst was a respected senior editor and journalist who had the experience needed to champion newspapers in demanding times.

Mr Muir said the newspaper industry was in good heart and Mr Pankhurst would bring strong leadership to the industry body at a time of significant challenge.

“Most New Zealanders read a newspaper each day and rely on their local newspaper to provide them with relevant, trusted and comprehensive news and information in print and online. Mr Pankhurst’s background as a highly effective newspaper editor and media executive makes him ideally qualified to head the NPA at this time.”

Dominion Post general manager Paul Elenio said a search for Mr Pankhurst’s successor would begin immediately.

“Tim will leave a legacy of strong journalism and deep community relationships at The Dominion Post. We are looking for a superb editor to take the paper forward to future success.”

Mr Pankhurst will take up the Wellington-based role in mid-April.

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