From: spencer robertson ████████████████████
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:44 PM
To: Digital Monitoring

Dear ACCC,

My name is Spencer Robertson, I'm a software engineer who has spent the last 5 years developing software for the web. In this time I've worked in various industries ranging from infrastructure to Mining. However I am writing this response to you in a personal capacity, and these views are my own.

Apple has a significant market share with ~50% of all Australian mobile devices running iOS. All of these devices have their browsers' engine mandated, by Apple's policies, to run the same engine that Safari uses (WebKit).

If a feature is not available on Safari, it's not available on any browser on iOS. This forces our hands as web developers and restricts what features are available for us to develop our application. In previous roles we've had to spend considerable time and effort in developing a native version ("iOS App") just to add a feature that would have been possible if alternative browser engines were allowed.

I believe this policy is anti-competitive as it hamstrings the web, and browser competition with native applications. Instead forcing us to develop within the walled garden that is the App Store. Apple has an incentive for the web to fail to deliver, while the App Store remains the only way to access "full featured apps" as they receive a standard 30% commission from all payments made within apps.

I ask that you, the ACCC, step in and allow a fair and competitive ecosystem for browsers and the web on iOS. Ensure that Apple allows competing browser manufacturers to bring all of their capability to almost ~50% of all mobile users on the Web in Australia.

If you do this I see the web becoming a better, more open version of what we have today. Where web applications can compete with Native applications. Developers can spend less time maintaining multiple Native Apps. And the privacy and security of users can be better respected by not being forced to install native applications for every service they wish to visit.

Thanks,

Tim

[1] Features failing in webkit browsers https://wpt.fyi/results/?label=experimental&label=master&aligned