

NEWS CORP LTD
Form 6-K
August 11, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of August 2004 (August 11, 2004)

Commission File Number: 1-9141

THE NEWS CORPORATION LIMITED

(Name of Registrant)

2 Holt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2010, Australia

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): Not Applicable

This Report is incorporated by reference in the prospectus contained in Registration Statement Nos. 33-43799, 33-71446, 33-86358, 33-89584, 333-4962, 333-6324, 333-6896, 333-7466, 333-10338, 333-10624, 333-12878, 333-8246, 333-13556, 333-106837, 333-112405, 333-112428 and 333-51434 filed by the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933.

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Annexed hereto are excerpts from the announcements by The News Corporation Limited (News Corporation) of its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 in Australian and U.S. dollars.

Such announcements were filed with the Australian Stock Exchange and released in New York on August 11, 2004.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE NEWS CORPORATION LIMITED

Date: August 11, 2004

By: /s/ Arthur M. Siskind

Arthur M. Siskind
Director

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Page No. in Sequential Numbering System</u>
A. Excerpt from the announcement made by News Corporation of its financial results in Australian dollars for the quarter ended June 30, 2004.	5
B. Excerpt from the announcement made by News Corporation of its financial results in U.S. dollars for the quarter ended June 30, 2004.	9

EXHIBIT A

EARNINGS RELEASE FOR THE QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE, 2004 IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE ¹

	Note	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended	
		30 June,		30 June,	
		2004	2003	2004	2003
A\$ Millions (except per share amounts)					
Sales revenue	1	\$ 7,697	\$ 7,130	\$ 29,428	\$ 29,913
Operating expenses		(6,656)	(6,248)	(25,126)	(25,561)
Operating income	1	1,041	882	4,302	4,352
Net profit (loss) from associated entities		116	338	322	(89)
Borrowing costs		(220)	(231)	(845)	(1,000)
Interest income		70	60	215	209
Net borrowing costs		(150)	(171)	(630)	(791)
Exchangeable securities expense		(33)	(27)	(113)	(94)
Other items before income tax, net		(13)	(277)	(26)	(378)
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax		961	745	3,855	3,000
Income tax expense on:					
Ordinary activities before other items		(318)	(202)	(1,246)	(989)
Other items		(3)	155	(1)	215
Net income tax expense		(321)	(47)	(1,247)	(774)
Net profit from ordinary activities after tax		640	698	2,608	2,226
Net profit attributable to outside equity interests		(85)	(86)	(296)	(418)
Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity		\$ 555	\$ 612	\$ 2,312	\$ 1,808
Net exchange gains (losses) recognised directly in equity		2,016	(2,331)	(389)	(4,064)
Other items recognised directly in equity					152
Total change in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		\$ 2,571	\$ (1,719)	\$ 1,923	\$ (2,104)

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Diluted earnings per share on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity

Ordinary shares	\$ 0.083	\$ 0.104	\$ 0.364	\$ 0.305
Preferred limited voting ordinary shares	\$ 0.099	\$ 0.124	\$ 0.437	\$ 0.366
Ordinary and preferred limited voting ordinary shares	\$ 0.093	\$ 0.116	\$ 0.411	\$ 0.342

^a *Following the issuance in June 2002 of the revised Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1018 Statement of Financial Performance this statement has been reformatted from previous presentations to be consistent with the format prescribed in the revised Australian Accounting Standard.*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June, 2004	30 June, 2003
A\$ Millions		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 5,805	\$ 6,746
Cash on deposit	412	
Receivables	6,039	5,701
Inventories	2,193	1,931
Other	563	483
Total Current Assets	15,012	14,861
Non-Current Assets		
Cash on deposit		698
Receivables	1,076	1,219
Investments in associated entities	14,971	5,526
Other investments	811	1,195
Inventories	3,824	4,103
Property, plant and equipment	5,565	6,299
Publishing rights, titles and television licenses	31,185	32,724
Goodwill	318	377
Other	976	745
Total Non-Current Assets	58,726	52,886
Total Assets	\$ 73,738	\$ 67,747
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	\$ 1,553	\$ 33
Payables	7,847	8,298
Tax liabilities	705	714
Provisions	332	258
Total Current Liabilities	10,437	9,303
Non-Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	10,917	12,396
Payables	2,846	3,545
Tax liabilities	974	666
Provisions	982	1,032
Total Non-Current Liabilities Excluding Exchangeable Securities	15,719	17,639
Exchangeable securities	2,055	2,084
Total Liabilities	28,211	29,026
Shareholders Equity		
Contributed equity	34,424	28,427
Reserves	2,771	2,760

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Retained profits	2,682	1,137
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Shareholders' equity attributable to members of the parent entity	39,877	32,324
Outside equity interests in controlled entities	5,650	6,397
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Shareholders' Equity	45,527	38,721
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 73,738	\$ 67,747
	<hr/>	<hr/>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	12 Months Ended 30 June,	
	2004	2003
A\$ Millions		
Operating Activity		
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	\$ 2,312	\$ 1,808
Adjustment for non-cash and non-operating activities:		
Equity earnings, net	(367)	159
Distributions from investees	187	35
Outside equity interest	314	421
Depreciation and amortisation	844	776
Other items, net	54	90
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(480)	(559)
Inventories	(459)	(206)
Payables	465	(657)
Other liabilities	562	616
Cash provided by operating activity	3,432	2,483
Investing and other activity		
Property, plant and equipment	(517)	(551)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(289)	(644)
Investments in associated entities	(4,639)	(794)
Other investments	(130)	(145)
Repayment of loans by associate		170
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets and business disposals	1,245	167
Cash used in investing activity	(4,330)	(1,797)
Financing activity		
Issuance of debt	785	3,172
Repayment of debt and exchangeable securities	(1,351)	(3,673)
Increase (decrease) in cash on deposit	232	(698)
Issuance of shares	834	1,927
Dividends paid	(289)	(272)
Cash provided by financing activity	211	456
Net (decrease) increase in cash	(687)	1,142
Opening cash balance	6,746	6,337
Exchange movement on opening balance	(254)	(733)
Closing cash balance	\$ 5,805	\$ 6,746

Note 1 SEGMENT DATA

	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended	
	30 June,		30 June,	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	A\$ Millions		A\$ Millions	
BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS				
Revenues				
United States	\$ 5,213	\$ 5,128	\$ 20,252	\$ 22,689
Europe	1,808	1,374	6,559	4,713
Australasia	676	628	2,617	2,511
	<u>7,697</u>	<u>7,130</u>	<u>29,428</u>	<u>29,913</u>
Operating Income				
United States	\$ 822	\$ 725	\$ 3,630	\$ 3,538
Europe	108	66	230	492
Australasia	111	91	442	322
	<u>1,041</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>4,302</u>	<u>4,352</u>
BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT				
Revenues				
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 1,921	\$ 1,707	\$ 7,283	\$ 7,689
Television	1,783	1,807	7,059	8,162
Cable Network Programming	979	1,059	3,563	3,891
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	680	340	2,338	340
Magazines and Inserts	349	393	1,375	1,583
Newspapers	1,274	1,157	4,808	4,659
Book Publishing	371	365	1,791	1,992
Other	340	302	1,211	1,597
	<u>7,697</u>	<u>7,130</u>	<u>29,428</u>	<u>29,913</u>
Operating Income				
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 125	\$ 116	\$ 1,244	\$ 1,099
Television	491	468	1,344	1,459
Cable Network Programming	215	145	867	736
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	(26)	(104)	(376)	(104)
Magazines and Inserts	92	110	381	438
Newspapers	200	201	831	686
Book Publishing	7	(1)	221	227
Other	(63)	(53)	(210)	(189)
	<u>1,041</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>4,302</u>	<u>4,352</u>

* SKY Italia results consolidated as of 1 May, 2003.

EXHIBIT B

EARNINGS RELEASE FOR THE QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2004 IN U.S. DOLLARS PREPARED FOR THE U.S. MARKET. AUSTRALIAN READERS
SHOULD REFER TO THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR EARNINGS RELEASE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE²

	Note	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended June	
		June 30,		30,	
		2004	2003	2004	2003
US \$ Millions (except per ADR amounts)					
Sales revenue	1	\$ 5,521	\$ 4,592	\$ 20,959	\$ 17,474
Operating expenses		(4,774)	(4,022)	(17,895)	(14,942)
Operating income	1	747	570	3,064	2,532
Net profit (loss) from associated entities		83	190	229	(52)
Borrowing costs		(158)	(149)	(602)	(583)
Interest income		50	38	153	122
Net borrowing costs		(108)	(111)	(449)	(461)
Exchangeable securities expense		(23)	(17)	(80)	(55)
Other items before income tax, net		(9)	(165)	(18)	(222)
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax		690	467	2,746	1,742
Income tax expense on:					
Ordinary activities before other items		(228)	(132)	(887)	(577)
Other items		(2)	91	(1)	125
Net income tax expense		(230)	(41)	(888)	(452)
Net profit from ordinary activities after tax		460	426	1,858	1,290
Net profit attributable to outside equity interests		(61)	(56)	(211)	(244)
Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity		\$ 399	\$ 370	\$ 1,647	\$ 1,046
Net exchange gains recognized directly in equity		118	749	800	1,001
Other items recognized directly in equity					86
Total change in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		\$ 517	\$ 1,119	\$ 2,447	\$ 2,133

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Diluted earnings per ADR on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity

Ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.71
Preferred limited voting ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.30	\$ 1.24	\$ 0.85
Ordinary and preferred limited voting ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.28	\$ 1.17	\$ 0.79

^a *Following the issuance in June 2002 of the revised Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1018 Statement of Financial Performance this statement has been reformatted from previous presentations to be consistent with the format prescribed in the revised Australian Accounting Standard.*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30, 2004	June 30, 2003
US \$ Millions		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 4,051	\$ 4,477
Cash on deposit	287	
Receivables	4,214	3,784
Inventories	1,530	1,282
Other	393	321
Total Current Assets	10,475	9,864
Non-Current Assets		
Cash on deposit		463
Receivables	751	809
Investments in associated entities	10,447	3,667
Other investments	566	793
Inventories	2,669	2,723
Property, plant and equipment	3,883	4,180
Publishing rights, titles and television licenses	21,761	21,719
Goodwill	222	250
Other	681	495
Total Non-Current Assets	40,980	35,099
Total Assets	\$ 51,455	\$ 44,963
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	\$ 1,084	\$ 22
Payables	5,476	5,507
Tax liabilities	492	474
Provisions	232	171
Total Current Liabilities	7,284	6,174
Non-Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	7,618	8,227
Payables	1,986	2,353
Tax liabilities	680	442
Provisions	685	685
Total Non-Current Liabilities Excluding Exchangeable Securities	10,969	11,707
Exchangeable securities	1,433	1,383
Total Liabilities	19,686	19,264
Shareholders Equity		
Contributed equity	21,447	17,262
Reserves	2,773	1,685

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Retained profits	3,606	2,506
Shareholders' equity attributable to members of the parent entity	27,826	21,453
Outside equity interests in controlled entities	3,943	4,246
Total Shareholders' Equity	31,769	25,699
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 51,455	\$ 44,963

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	12 Months Ended June 30,	
	2004	2003
	US \$ Millions	
Operating Activity		
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	\$ 1,647	\$ 1,046
Adjustment for non-cash and non-operating activities:		
Equity earnings, net	(261)	93
Distributions from investees	133	20
Outside equity interest	224	246
Depreciation and amortization	601	453
Other items, net	38	54
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(335)	(371)
Inventories	(320)	(137)
Payables	276	(180)
Other liabilities	392	409
	<u>2,395</u>	<u>1,633</u>
Cash provided by operating activity	2,395	1,633
Investing and other activity		
Property, plant and equipment	(361)	(366)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(202)	(427)
Investments and acquisitions of interests in associated entities	(3,237)	(527)
Other investments	(91)	(96)
Repayment of loans by associate		96
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets and business disposals	869	111
	<u>(3,022)</u>	<u>(1,209)</u>
Cash used in investing activity	(3,022)	(1,209)
Financing activity		
Issuance of debt	548	2,105
Repayment of debt and exchangeable securities	(943)	(2,438)
Increase (decrease) in cash on deposit	162	(463)
Issuance of shares	580	1,279
Dividends paid	(202)	(181)
	<u>145</u>	<u>302</u>
Cash provided by financing activity	145	302
Net (decrease) increase in cash	(482)	726
Opening cash balance	4,477	3,574
Exchange movement on opening balance	56	177
	<u>\$ 4,051</u>	<u>\$ 4,477</u>
Closing cash balance	\$ 4,051	\$ 4,477

Note 1 SEGMENT DATA

	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	US \$ Millions		US \$ Millions	
BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS				
Revenues				
United States	\$ 3,740	\$ 3,308	\$ 14,424	\$ 13,237
Europe	1,296	884	4,671	2,772
Australasia	485	400	1,864	1,465
	<u>5,521</u>	<u>4,592</u>	<u>20,959</u>	<u>17,474</u>
Operating Income				
United States	\$ 590	\$ 474	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,064
Europe	77	39	164	280
Australasia	80	57	315	188
	<u>747</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>3,064</u>	<u>2,532</u>
BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT				
Revenues				
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 1,378	\$ 1,103	\$ 5,187	\$ 4,486
Television	1,279	1,170	5,027	4,763
Cable Network Programming	702	669	2,538	2,270
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	488	220	1,665	220
Magazines and Inserts	250	250	979	923
Newspapers	914	738	3,425	2,718
Book Publishing	267	242	1,276	1,162
Other	243	200	862	932
	<u>5,521</u>	<u>4,592</u>	<u>20,959</u>	<u>17,474</u>
Operating Income				
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 91	\$ 85	\$ 886	\$ 641
Television	351	291	957	851
Cable Network Programming	154	96	617	430
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	(19)	(68)	(267)	(68)
Magazines and Inserts	66	70	271	256
Newspapers	144	126	592	400
Book Publishing	6	4	158	133
Other	(46)	(34)	(150)	(111)
	<u>747</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>3,064</u>	<u>2,532</u>

* SKY Italia results consolidated as of May 1, 2003