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From: Andrew & Chris Gore <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 November 2026 11:03 am
To: Registrar
Subject: Comhla Vet/Vet First

Categories: [redacted]

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I oppose this merger/acquisition

The power provided by very large corporations, allows them to pressure smaller clinics to the point of closure. It's financially advantageous to these corporations to close the competition down and in the long-term increase their monopoly and prices. They can do this several ways.
1. Destructive pricing by deliberately running a corporate region at a loss until the competitive environment collapses the small independents.
2. Their size allows very favourable afterhours rosters for the corporate vets. This makes it almost impossible for the smaller vet clinics to attract veterinary staff.
3. Their size allows predatory targeting of key veterinary personnel in the smaller business. They can afford to offer packages to entice because they have the financial strength. They remove key staff in hope the smaller clinic will collapse.
4. Spurious legal challenges through the Veterinary council. New Zealand allows any challenge against a veterinarian without recompense if the challenge has no merit. This means that the veterinarian faces stress and legal costs but the challenger none, even when there is no merit to the charge. At least in the normal court system they would face costs and a reprimand for wasting court time.
5. A vertically integrated corporate has powerful financial advantage over small independents. By purchasing power they can make some drug supply collapse. This makes it very unfair for the small clinic as they can no longer use their preferred supplier and are forced to buy from the supplier now owned by the corporate competitor. The corporate now has massive pricing advantage over the small clinic. This has a huge affect in the Dairy Industry and ultimately would make it almost impossible for the small clinic to survive.

After more than 40 years in the veterinary I have personally experienced and witnessed all of the above. The behaviour of corporates can be brutal and they are not afraid of breaking the law.

The bottom line is that they want Vet First because they want more power. More power gives more control and long term leads to monopoly and more profit.

A downside of more corporates is a drop in quality of veterinary service because staff have no vested interest in outcomes like an owner operator. And ultimately a significant increase in costs to the consumer.

Kind Regards
Andrew Gore