



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

**MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Committee: *SENATE ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMUNICATIONS*

Tabled Document

Inquiry: *SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES*

Date: *24 OCTOBER 2017*

Witness: *SENATOR MITCH FIFIELD*

Organisation:

Mr Mike Zafiroopoulos JP AM
Chair
C31 Melbourne
Level 11, 277 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Community television transition to online-only delivery

Dear Mr Zafiroopoulos *Mike*

I write to inform you that I have decided to extend C31 Melbourne's access to terrestrial broadcasting spectrum in Melbourne to 30 June 2018. This extension provides sufficient time to finalise the transition to online-only delivery for C31 Melbourne, its volunteers and audience.

I have decided to extend the C31 licence a further six months to 30 June 2018. To implement the decision, I have made the *Radiocommunications (Duration of Community Television Transmitter Licences) Determination (No.1) of 2008 (Amendment No. 2 of 2017)*, which extends the date after which your transmitter licence ceases to have effect to 30 June 2018.

The Determination will take effect the day it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation (FRL). This registration process is carried out by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and it is expected that this will occur in the coming days.

The Determination is a legislative instrument and will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament within six sitting days of it being registered on the FRL. It is then subject to the disallowance process which allows the Parliament to scrutinise the instrument and to disallow it.

I have also written to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to advise the regulator of my decision. The ACMA is responsible for varying the Television Licence Area Plan for Melbourne to extend the end date of community television channel allotment in the area to 30 June 2018. As part of this process, the ACMA will also renew the relevant transmitter licence so that it expires on the same date.

I expect this extended period will provide sufficient time for C31 Melbourne to finalise its transition to an online only environment. A copy of this letter has been provided to the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia.

Yours sincerely

MITCH FIFIELD

cc  17/10/17

Mr Jon Bisset
Chief Executive Officer
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
PO Box 564
ALEXANDRIA NSW 1435



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

**MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE**

Ms Nerida O'Loughlin
Chair
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box Q500
QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING NSW 1230

Community television – extension of transmitter licence

Dear Ms O'Loughlin *Nerida*

I write to you in relation to community television broadcasters' access to terrestrial broadcasting spectrum and the timing for their transition to online-only delivery of their services.

Following negotiations with the Nick Xenophon Team to secure passage of media reform laws, I have decided to grant a further six month extension of access to broadcast spectrum for community television broadcasters in three of the metropolitan licence areas (Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth). These community television broadcasters will have until 30 June 2018 to transition to an online-only platform.

As a first step towards implementing this decision, I have made the *Radiocommunications (Duration of Community Television Transmitter Licences) Determination (No.1) of 2008 (Amendment No. 2 of 2017) (Attachment A)*, which extends the date after which transmitter licences issued to the long-term community television broadcaster cease to have effect to 30 June 2018. A copy of the Determination's Explanatory Statement is at Attachment B for your information. The Determination will take effect on the day it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation and I have asked the Department to notify the ACMA once the instrument is registered.

I am advised that the ACMA's past practice has been to align the expiry date of the scientific licences issued for community television trials in Adelaide and Perth with the date specified for transmitter licences issued to long-term community television broadcasters. On this basis, I expect the ACMA will now consider extending the expiry date for those licences to 30 June 2018.

I also understand that the ACMA has commenced the process for varying the Television Licence Area Plan for Melbourne to extend the end date of the community television channel allotment in this area to 30 June 2018. This letter and the attached instrument should allow the ACMA to complete this process in due course.

It would be appreciated if the ACMA could please keep the Department informed of its progress in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

MITCH FIFIELD

17/10/17



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

**MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE**

Ms Lauren Hillman
General Manager
Channel 44 Adelaide
Level 7, 85 North East Road
COLLINSWOOD SA 5081

Community television transition to online-only delivery

Dear Ms Hillman *Lauren*

I write to inform you that I have decided to extend Channel 44 Adelaide's access to terrestrial broadcasting spectrum in Adelaide to 30 June 2018. This extension provides additional time to finalise the transition to online-only delivery for C44, its volunteers and audience.

I have also written to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to advise the regulator of my decision. I have requested the ACMA extend the date in the scientific licence after which Channel 44 Adelaide's transmitter license will cease to have effect to 30 June 2018.

I expect this extended period will provide sufficient time for Channel 44 Adelaide to finalise its transition to an online-only environment. A copy of this letter has been provided to the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia.

Yours sincerely *[Signature]*

MITCH FIFIELD

7/10/17

cc Mr Jon Bisset
Chief Executive Officer
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
PO Box 564
ALEXANDRIA NSW 1435



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Mr John Rapsey
Chair
Board of Directors
West Television (WTV) Perth
Level 2, 30 Fielder Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Community television transition to online-only delivery

Dear Mr Rapsey

John

I write to inform you that I have decided to extend WTV Perth's access to terrestrial broadcasting spectrum in Perth to 30 June 2018. This extension provides additional time to finalise the transition to online-only delivery for WTV Perth, its volunteers and audience.

I have also written to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to advise the regulator of my decision. I have requested the ACMA extend the date in the scientific licence after which WTV Perth's transmitter license will cease to have effect to 30 June 2018.

I expect this extended period will provide sufficient time for WTV Perth to finalise its transition to an online-only environment. A copy of this letter has been provided to the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia.

Yours sincerely

MITCH FIFIELD

17/10/17

cc Mr Jon Bisset
Chief Executive Officer
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
PO Box 564
ALEXANDRIA NSW 1435