

Dear Christine McDonald Sect.

Thank you for your phone call today.

The matters we spoke about for reference to the Senators were as follows

WE NEED THE SENATORS HELP URGENTLY

1. The 24/7 ABC STREAMING by the ABC South East is URGENTLY needed NOW. The MONARO, particularly the SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCL AREAS are very vulnerable to lightning strikes at this time of the year and the terrain is timber dry with undergrowth. January, February and March are our most venerable periods for bush fires.

The disastrous 2003 fires that devastated the ACT Duffy suburb WERE A RESULT OF THREE FIRES COMBINING THROUGH THE Kosciusko National Park, through the Snowy Mountains Regional Council areas and down to the ACT. It also caused havoc in the Adaminaby areas. The 2013 period had 184 fires in the its first 10 months, ALL starting in the month of January. The 2013 Yarrabin-Numeralla fire went for 11 days and cost \$8.4 million to extinguish, 2 homes lost and thousands for livestock fences, sheds . and equipment lost. Winds of 80 – 120 Km/h are not uncommon at that time of the year, at 35-50 deg. C

The ABC SOUTH EAST Bega studio has two AM radio transmitters.

- a. ABC 810 Bega 5.0 Kilowatts output. By the time it transverses the eastern escarpment its transmission coverage is **intermittent even in a vehicle**, with an external antenna and internal amplifier in the car radio. The cover area is approx.. **20% of the SMRC areas, in a vehicle**, BUT intermittent and subject to climatic conditions.
  - b. Sister transmitter from ABC South East is the 1964 model ABC 1602 AM Cooma at Polo Flat Cooma. It is NOW transmitting at 400 watts output. This allows reception in a car for approx. 25 Km, but again not in a residence past 10 Km from Cooma.
  - c. The existing ABC 1602 AM Cooma is capable of transmitting up to 1000 watts, if the owner of the transmitter, Broadcast Australia, Canadian owned, was to upgrade its transmitter/receiver to 1000watts, **THEY HAVE THEM IN STOCK**, it would give vehicle reception of approx. 50 Km, which would be about 70% of the SMRC areas. BUT the reception into the homes would about 50%. The high summer and winter tourist areas of Numeralla Region, Lake Eucumbene would not have radio coverage particular in **HIGH NATURAL DISASTERS** periods, **IN THEIR RESIDENCES** or Caravan parks. They would have to sit in their vehicles and hope they heard the Emergency Warning situations from ABC South East Broadcasting Studio at Bega.
2. Streaming can overcome this **immediate shortfall** through the internet into the home and onto a mobile phone, **PROVIDING** there is good Mobile Phone Coverage, which is still lacking in the Numeralla Region and many areas of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council **THE MONARO**. My other submission covers the long term solution for the 24/7

needs of the OVERALL SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL to Kiandra and to  
Queanbeyan, which is in the NSW Monaro Electorate

Is it possible for the Senators to make an interim recommendation to the ABC to request  
Broadcast Australia to increase the ABC 1602 AM transmitter output to its capacity of  
1000watts?

Yours sincerely