



**Commercial Radio Australia Ltd**  
ACN 059 731 467 ABN 52 059 731 467  
Level 5, 88 Foveaux Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
T 02 9281 6577  
F 02 9281 6599  
E [mail@commercialradio.com.au](mailto:mail@commercialradio.com.au)  
I [www.commercialradio.com.au](http://www.commercialradio.com.au)

10 March 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

By email: [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

**Inquiry into Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011**

Commercial Radio Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Inquiry, particularly to restate the position that we made to the DBCDE's exposure draft *Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend And Other Measures) Bill 2011*, which was submitted on 24 December 2010.

CRA is the peak national industry body for Australian commercial radio stations. CRA has 261 members and represents approximately 99% of the commercial radio broadcasting industry in Australia.

Any changes to the legislation or the introduction of new planning functions and powers for the ACMA will need to be mindful of the implications for the new and existing DAB+ services.

In order to ensure equity of access for regional Australians to the benefits of digital radio, provision must be made for the broadcasters to offer the same level of quality, range of content and functionality as is now available in the metropolitan markets.

Commercial Radio Australia would recommend that the Legislative Amendments consider

- 1) allowing the ACMA to plan for digital radio rollout outside the five cities;
- 2) providing adequate resources to the ACMA to develop draft licence area plans for regional DAB+ services; and
- 3) instructing the ACMA that radio licence area plans should come into force on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, a whole year before the requirement for the TV plans, to let the radio industry start building services immediately following analogue switch off. Where spectrum and sites are available and careful planning is in place, there is no reason to delay a full year, while TV restacks, before radio can switch on digital services for regional Australians.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification or information.

Yours sincerely

Joan Warner  
Chief Executive Officer