

Holmes, Janet (REPS)

From: Kaida, Lisa (REPS)
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2000 9:00 AM
To: Holmes, Janet (REPS)
Subject: FW: Adequacy of Radio Services

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Panting [SMTP:cpanting@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2000 5:39 PM
To: cta.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: Adequacy of Radio Services

Sender. Charles F. Panting
Address 2/15 Jackes Street
ARMIDALE 2350.
Tel. No. 02 6772 4040
E-mail cpanting@optusnet.com.au <<mailto:cpanting@optusnet.com.au>>

Members of the Committee.

I understand that you are seeking submissions as to the adequacy of Radio Services in Australia, particularly in rural areas.

I have only recently moved to Armidale in northern New South Wales from Sydney and the first thing that struck me was the variability of transmission quality compared to similar transmissions in Sydney. Since I arrived in Armidale we have completely lost the service three times, the last time for approximately thirty hours. (early afternoon Wednesday 18th October until evening Thursday 19th. October). At other times the ABC Classic FM broadcast has been interrupted by other ABC radio broadcasts most notably Triple J).

The most worrying aspect of these losses of service is the fact that the ABC representatives that control area (Tamworth) seem oblivious to the disappearance of the transmission. I am assured that Armidale is in a relatively privileged position compared to many rural areas which are unable to receive ANY ABC programmes.

Local commercial radio provides opportunities for advertising and little else. The ABC is the only source of intelligent, informative and stimulating programming for TAX payers who have little or no access to any other sources of information and entertainment. In the past it has provided the only alternative to much narrower views propounded by local press and radio and its coverage of parliamentary debate was essential listening for anyone interested in tracing the real performance and intentions of the Government and Opposition. Perhaps that is why the ABC has enjoyed such unparalleled unpopularity with both sides of the government!

If reports in the media are anything to go by we in the regions are about to suffer even more from poor quality transmissions and poor quality programming. I hope this is not true but if it is please remember that we pay taxes and have votes and may yet express our dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.

As it stands at this time it appears that Metropolitan areas receive good reception and also enjoy the opportunity to listen to other stations offering a wide range of opinion and variety of music. Regional listeners rely totally on the ABC for a choice of music and informed and considered opinion. These service range from matters of particular interest to primary producers, cattle prices, weather reports etc. to music with special appeal to younger people (JJJ) News and views (ABC National) and ABC Classic's wide spectrum of good quality music (Jazz, Avante Garde,

Classical, Opera and experimental radio theatre). Just because we live in rural Australia it doesn't mean that we have no interests other than sheep or wheat any more than those in the city have no interest in anything other than money or business.

Thankyou for providing me with an opportunity of expressing my opinion.

Sincerely
Charles F. Panting.