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06 DEC 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEES
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
THE PARLIAMENTS



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Communications Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: INQUIRY INTO RADIO SERVICES IN REGIONAL AND RURAL AUSTRALIA

The Shires of Broome, Halls Creek, Derby West Kimberley and Wyndham East Kimberley form the Country Shire Council's Association (Western Australia), Kimberley Ward.

At a recent Ward Meeting it was agreed that the Kimberley Ward prepare our comments in relation to your inquiry. I write on behalf of the Kimberley Ward.

We believe there is an unequal distribution of broadcasting services in Australia and that in comparison to large population centres; regional and rural centres have access to limited services, and with a rapidly decreasing local content.

Regional and rural areas lack the resources and opportunities present in metropolitan areas such as educational facilities and institutions, theatres, wide range of bookstores and art galleries and choices in high schools – access to broadcasts for information is vital in these areas for remote and rural centres.

A major concern in the Kimberley is the mooted proposal to privatise some services of the ABC Radio. Already the Kimberley programming has changed to take the focus away from local content. For some months now, the prime time morning programme, which was formerly broadcast from Kununurra with Greg Hayes, is now broadcast from Perth with Liam Bartlett (8.30am-11.00pm). Afternoon programming is broadcast from Perth with presenter Ted Bull.

The Morning Show (6.15am-7.45pm) presenters George Manning and Pat Hagen broadcast from Broome. Afternoon local content is Drive Time with Greg Hayes from Kununurra 4.00pm-6.00pm. At the moment due to Greg being on leave, Drive Time is broadcast from Karratha. This equates to a total of 3 ½ hours of local (Kimberley) content Monday – Friday. On Saturday mornings there is a local sports programme scheduled for Kununurra and Broome for approximately 2 hours. If there is cricket or football scheduled for national broadcast, then the local programme is not aired.

All communications to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 614
Kununurra WA 6743
Ph (08) 9168 1677
Fax (08) 9168 1798
Email: swek@swek.wa.gov.au

Kununurra Office:
115 Coolibah Drive
Kununurra

Wyndham Office:
Kooiama Street
Wyndham

House of Representatives - Standing
Committees - Communications
Parliament House, Arts

Submission No: 241
Date received: 6/12/00
Signature: Janet Holmes

In addition, the Kimberley Ward supports the submission forwarded to you by the Western Australian Department of Commerce and Trade, Office of Information and Communication.

I trust that you will take these matters on board when considering submissions for the inquiry. If you wish to speak with me about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9168 1677 or ceo@swek.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony Brown', written in black ink.

TONY BROWN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

29 November 2000