

Secretary:.....

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27 OCT 2000

HOUSE

SECRETARY

~~The Secretary,~~  
~~House Communications Committee,~~  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, ACT, 2600.

P. O. Box 286,  
Muswellbrook, 2333  
23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2000.

House of Representatives Standing  
Committee on Communications,  
Transport and the Arts

Submission No: ..... 139 .....  
Date Received: ..... 27/10/00 .....  
Secretary: ..... Janet Helms .....  
.....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the Adequacy of Radio Services  
in non-metropolitan Australia.

I wish to comment on the inadequacy of radio services in the Upper Hunter region of N.S.W., with particular regard to ABC Fine Music.

Many parts of the region are completely deprived of the ABC Fine Music service, while some favoured localities in the region have been able to receive variable qualities of signal from Newcastle, Mt. Soma or Mt Dove. The quality of signal received from these transmitters has, however, been further damaged by the allocation of new frequencies to local broadcasters. For example:

- Newcastle 106.1 has had serious interference from ABC Regional on 105.7 (since 1995);
- Mt Soma 103.1 now has been completely overwhelmed by the 2KY racing station (since Dec 1999)
- Mt Dove 96.7 now has interference from an ABC Regional translator on Mt Helen, Murrumbidgee.

A recent letter submitted to a local newspaper by Mrs. E. Collison of Scone concerning the problem of ABC Fine Music reception resulted in the attached list of listeners contacting her. They have experienced serious interference with, or complete loss of, signal from 106.1 and 103.1.

I realise the difficulty associated with providing quality FM reception in an area of varying topography. However, the fact that the Mt. Dove signal can be received in so many parts of the region (despite the

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physical barrier of the Liverpool Ranges and the really large distance from the transmitting site) is an indication that FM can be delivered successfully if a strong signal from a very high site is used. It certainly gives cause to believe that a quality coverage of the Upper Hunter could be achieved by siting a high powered transmitter on a strategic site on the Liverpool Ranges.

I note that one aspect of your enquiry relates to "the social benefits and influence on the general public of radio broadcasting in non-metropolitan Australia, in comparison to other media sectors." The opportunities for non-metropolitan communities to experience a wide variety of classical music, and at reasonably frequent intervals, are obviously very limited, and radio is the obvious medium to overcome this. That is why it is so important to have the reception of ABC Fine Music upgraded so that as many listeners as possible have access to it.

Yours sincerely,

V. Leonard

(V. Leonard)

Attached: list of regional listeners experiencing reception difficulties.

Hilary Nicol,	74 Kingdon Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Terry <u>Gravolin</u> ,	21 Waverley Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1 & 106.1) <u>(has external antenna)</u>
Ron <u>Fraser</u> ,	24 Forbes Street, Scone 2337	(103.1 & 106.1) <u>has ext. antenna</u>
Derek <u>Garner</u> ,	5 Sowerby St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Glen <u>Denning</u> ,	13 Davies St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Anthony <u>Neate</u> ,	10 Roger Street. Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Vincent <u>Leonard</u> ,	7 Humphries St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1) <u>has external antenna</u>
Patty <u>Gleeson</u> ,	9A Bingle St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Marcus <u>Holdsworth</u> ,	34 Satur Road, Scone, 2337	(103.1 & 106.1) <u>has. ext. antenna.</u>
Jacqui <u>Druery</u> ,	18 Phillip St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Joy <u>Newman</u>	22 Forbes St., Scone, 2337.	(103.1)
Chris & Aileen <u>Hick</u> ,	20 Koala Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Aivars <u>Rubens</u> ,	48 Scott St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Ruth <u>Logan</u> ,	53 Park Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Jan <u>Crawford</u> ,	4 MacCartney St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Nadine <u>Fenwick</u> ,	12 Boronia Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1) <u>has. ext. antenna.</u>
Laurel <u>Ashford</u> ,	6 Towarri St., Scone, 2337	(106.1)
Dorothy Munday,	49 Lower Hill St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Vivian <u>Rooke</u> ,	3 Scott St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)

cont'd →

Sandra <u>Vandenburgh</u> ,	991 Castle Rock Rd., Muswellbrook, 2333	(103.1)
Barbara <u>Mailer</u> ,	"Highlands", Moonan Flat, Via Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Dorothy <u>Scott</u> ,	4 Little St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Vicky <u>Riddy</u> ,	76 Shiraz St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1) <u>has ext. antenna.</u>
Colin <u>Cook</u> ,	18 Kamilaroi St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Nan <u>Tooth</u> ,	152 Susan Street, Scone, 2337	(103.1) <u>has ext. antenna.</u>
Jill <u>Hall</u> ,	65 Park St., Scone, 2337.	(103.1)
Shona <u>Murphy</u> ,	11 Davies Street, Satur, Via Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Hilda <u>Easey</u> ,	124 Susan St., Scone, 2337, 2337	(103.1)
Dora <u>Marsden</u> ,	3 St. James Cresc. Muswellbrook, 2337	(103.1)
Don <u>Scott</u> ,	7 Surman St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Elizabeth <u>Walter</u> ,	2 Hermitage Place, Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Kevin <u>Deverman</u> ,	70 McKenzie St., Merriwa, 2329	(103.1)
Mary <u>Griffith</u> ,	76 Kingdon St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Margaret <u>Cook</u> ,	18 Kamilaroi St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
Frank <u>Meehan</u> ,	Unit 2m 53 Barton St., Scone, 2337	(103.1)
Dianne <u>Callinan</u> ,	20 Wilder St., Muswellbrook, 2333	(106.1)
<u>Electra Collison</u>	<i>20 Kowla St., Scone, 2337</i>	<i>(103.1 and 106.1)</i>