



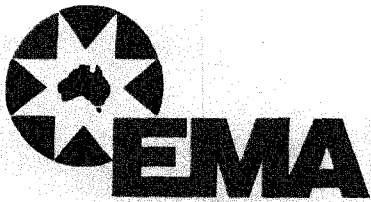
## **Submission No 4**

### **Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism**

**Organisation:** Emergency Management Australia Attorney-  
Generals Department

**Contact Person:** Mr David Templeman  
Director General

**Address:** PO BOX 1020  
DICKSON ACT 2602



"safer sustainable communities"

File: 2002/008027

Ref: EMA/543 / 02

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Department of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission: 4

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade hearing in relation to the Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism held in Canberra on Monday 9 December 2002, I undertook to obtain more information for the Committee in relation to Mr Jull's question on public alerts during radio down times (Hansard pp. FADT 40).


The following information is provided in response:

"As advised to the Committee during the hearing, the ABC has the capacity to override taped broadcasts on unmanned ABC radio stations to broadcast emergency messages. While the ABC does not have the technical capacity to break into and broadcast emergency messages on commercial radio stations, on request from emergency management authorities, those commercial stations would either staff their stations, if the matter for concern were of a local nature, or broadcast through their syndicated network if it were of a general nature with wider community impact.

All available media would be used to pass an alert to affected communities in times of emergency, whether that emergency is natural, human-caused (including terrorist related) or technological in origin. This would not guarantee that everyone would be informed, particularly during certain hours of the day. If warranted, emergency services would organise street by street notification of the need to evacuate or remain inside. That notification would be backed by police, or if circumstances warranted, military cordons around affected areas".

Please call me on (02) 6266 5183 or 0414 265 122 if you require any additional information on the matter.

Yours sincerely



David Templeman  
Director General

19 December 2002





PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade File: 2002/008027

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