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Sarina Shire Council

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25 October 2000

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts	
Submission No:	134
Date Received:	26/10/00
Secretary:	Janet Holmes

The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Communications,
Transport and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Janet

RE: RADIO INDUSTRY INQUIRY

In relation to your recent letter dated the 25th September 2000 pertaining to the adequacy of Radio Services in non-metropolitan Australia, please be advised Council resolved at its General Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2000 to make a submission to the Communications Committee detailing radio reception problems being experienced in the Sarina Shire.

The Shire of Sarina has an area of 1441 square kilometres with a population of approximately 9790 persons or 11.7% of the Mackay Region's total population, with the Shire currently experiencing the second highest growth rate in the region.

The Shire's major urban centre is situated at Sarina with satellite settlements situated at Koumala and the beaches communities of Armstrong Beach, Sarina Beach, Campwin Beach, Grassree Beach, Salonika Beach, Half Tide Beach and Louisa Creek.



The Shire relies on industries such as sugar cane growing and milling, beef and dairy cattle farming, exotic fruit growing, fishing, coal exporting, Queensland Railway support industries and tourism.

Sarina Shire, as a whole, experiences problems with radio and television reception primarily due to its topography. The Connors Range running the full length of the western half of the Shire is a major contributor to this. This is a very steep range providing the watershed for many creek systems through the agricultural areas of the eastern half of the Shire. The town of Sarina is nestled in the foothills of this range and suffers from poor reception in many of the western parts of the township.

In addition, there are other smaller ranges throughout the Shire, the largest of these being contained in the Cape Palmerston National Park comprising most of the southeast quadrant of the Shire. The northern half of the Shire contains many areas of rural residential development in and around Mt Chelona, O'Grady's Hill, Mt Hayden, Raspberry Hill, Mt Convenient and the Middle Creek and Tara Creek Valleys. These areas also suffer from poor reception in places.

Recent investigations undertaken by CJ Bailey & Co Pty Ltd, a local communications business in compiling Council's Expression of Interest to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for funding under the Television Black Spots Program and discussions held with residents in the Shire has highlighted the following areas as receiving poor radio reception:

- A. Middle Creek
 - B. Tara Creek
 - C. West Koumala
 - D. Funnel Creek
- (Map attached for reference)

Rural communities rely on communication facilities such as radio to receive information on events effecting their community and the wide world, Council is hopeful that the Radio Industry Inquiry will improve the quantity and quality of radio services in rural Australia.

Yours faithfully



NEIL ISCHENKO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER