

2 Barnes Street  
Stawell  
Victoria 3380

The Secretary  
House Of Communications Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Madam/Sir

I wish the following comments to be included in the inquiry into the adequacy of Radio Services In Non-Metropolitan Australia.

I live with my family in a small town of 7,000 people about 2 ½ hours drive from Melbourne. We suffer from the inability to receive Radio National. We know that this is excellent radio from the occasions that we listen to it when we are travelling in the car to Melbourne, and from comments from our city based friends.

It is extremely important that we are able to have access to the same wide ranging programs which cover current affairs, innovation in all aspects of Australian life and the arts, that are available to people in larger centres. These programs are not available on commercial radio or on Classical FM radio.

The benefit of this kind of access is a better informed rural public who will then be able to manage life in the country with flair and greater life satisfaction. This is a medium which lends itself extremely well to the cross-fertilization of ideas, and this is essential if we are to maintain a vigorous rural population who can run with the latest changes and use these in their business and personal lives.

It is also important that rural people have access to a range of radio arts presentations that they would otherwise have denied to them because of the tyranny of distance. We like to keep up to date with the latest publications and discussions about literature and the arts. These 'feed our souls' and help to give meaning to life. This may sound rather oblique, but people who have some shape to their lives are going to be thoughtful and dynamic contributors to the diverse fabric that makes up country life. Australia stands to benefit!!

One of the problems that besets most country communities is the ongoing struggle to attract and maintain a wide range of professionals and skilled people. Facilities such as the availability of Radio National help to redress this problem because it assists with bridging the gap between the country and the city.

I trust that these comments will be of some service to your inquiry

Yours faithfully

Sue Cunningham