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Committee Secretary
Radio Industry
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Communications, Transport and
The Arts

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R1. Suite 10
Parliament House
House of Representatives Standing
Committee on Communications,
Transport and the Arts
Submission No: 63
Date Received: 19/10/00
Secretary: Janet Downes

PROTEST - 2SM's. 18-45 age
bracket target listeners
Less. of Country music 2m.
2mo.
about 3 1/2 years ago, right

See LTE Page 3

Time talk back radio came to Gunnedah
at first it was not instantly accepted, because
Tamworths (2TM) Country music programme was
very popular - But then we still had the option
of listening to CM on radio 2TM. Tamworth
In the first week of "Australia Tonight" Paul
Telleys programme a comet flashed across
the sky in north west, people ^{MANY} including
truckies rang in from around Mullaley,
more, Gunnedah, from this moment
all objections ceased. Regular callers to
Australia Tonight became popular with listeners.
Paul would play Happy Birthday for callers
from 9-90 years of age. From time to time I
would ring programme, from this I learnt how
much older people relied on radio for company
from 7pm to midnight hour, from 12pm Country
music filled the void for people who had
trouble sleeping, this is why I took up
the "Our last voice" protest. I must admit
I didn't realise how devastated I would
be by the takeover by 2SM. who openly
stated they only wanted to attract the
18-45 age group. I enclose recent newspaper
artical confirming ^{TV programming are also} aimed at 24 to 35-year-olds

U O V W X Y Z

I am 64 years-old in the autumn-winter of my life and I am disgusted with content of television programmes and have more memory of my life prior to advent of television than during past 30 years of television. Radio was making a remarkable comeback until 2SM's takeover. After a few months I accepted Andrew Moore's talk back programme (nighttime) because it was only choice available, ABC radio and Narrabri's FM radio do not always fill the entertainment need for people as a child I loved all the old songs such as Danny Boy and Frank Buske etc, and would listen to country music in early hours of morning while my mother prepared my father's breakfast and lunch, he was a woodcutter/shearer. I am horrified by lyrics I hear on my grandchild's tapes CD. coarse blunt ugly sex drugs and words proclaiming "my wife's a bitch, she's fat and lazy and won't go out to work just sits on her arse all day" and other song refers how good it feels to be hit by a bus and run over by a train and wanting to repeat the experience. Unfortunately a young Armidale boy didn't live to do it again after (NSW) he jumped in front of a train recently. While visiting elderly people in hospital I was amazed to see the patients who didn't know their own children and family could remember and sing the songs they heard as children and adults. I apologise that I do not have time to condense my letter

Yours faithfully Judith Law

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR - The National Party's inquiry into the needs of country people on local radio, has created an angry backlash from 2SM's talkback host, Howard Sattler.

In fairness to the National Party, I feel an explanation is due, as the party is only acting on complaints received from people all over NSW and Southern Queensland. Many people living in remote areas do not have good-quality reception for television and radio programmes.

The basis of this inquiry came about because of the change of policy of the Broadcasting Operations Group which has a 30-strong station network of rural Australia.

The decision by 2SM to axe 2MO's talkback programme, Australia Tonight, hosted by Paul Tolley, upset thousands of North West listeners aged from nine to 90.

Tamworth's country music, relayed through 2MO, suffered the same fate after being on air for more than 30 years. The shockwaves are still being felt.

The reason given for dropping the country music format was that it was considered incompatible with the network plans to target listeners in the 18-45 years age bracket, in Sydney, Newcastle and country NSW and Queensland.

This decision created a void for people who turned back to radio when TV programmes became too unrestricted - crude, rude and nude.

When talkback radio was restored to 2MO - AM and PM, and also John Laws on AM - after petitions were presented, no further action was taken, although around 1000 signatures from Gunnedah were sent to the Minister for Communications, Senator Richard Alston.

Magpie from Bingara, who organised the Our Lost Voice protest, is a much-admired caller to talkback radio who deserves to be congratulated for her efforts to restore country radio to country people.

Over the past five years, rapid changes have taken place in Gunnedah and other country towns - the loss of industry has created unemployment along with the downgrading of public services.

Protest in the form of petitions, signed by local residents, has gone unheeded but despite this, people have continued to support petitions on many issues because they have become our only avenue of protest.

I thank the people who take the time to sign petitions which are presented to Council and members of Parliament and urge them to continue supporting them because I have faith that we can and must change what is unacceptable.

Judith Law
Gunnedah.

may I request
this letter to the Editor
be brought to the
attention of Mr.
Paul Neville MP (Chair)
Petitions and newspaper
articles, LTE were
sent to Senator
Richard Alston.
If Mr Neville and
Standing Committee
do not have access
to this information
I will forward
photocopies of
information if
requested. My LTE
was written before.
Press releases appeared
in NOL. Tamworth
and NVI Gunnedah.

so I hope I presented the facts correctly
Howard Sattler made such a fuss
about the inquiry and was angry
that he may be in danger of losing
his job. - But no such compassion was
shown to Paul Tolley or radio announcer
at Tamworth, who lost their jobs over-
night. In haste

Your faithfully Judith Law.
my daughter has a CD player that plays
3 CDs on player continuously.