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WA 6398

20<sup>th</sup> October 2000

The Committee Secretary  
House Communications Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts
Submission No: .....110.....
Date Received: .....25/10/00.....
Secretary: .....Janet Holmes.....

On behalf of local business people and residents I wish to raise points of concern re radio services to our area.

Walpole is situated on the South Coast of Western Australia 240 km South of Bunbury and 120 km West of Albany.

Currently we receive ABC and GWN Television and virtually no radio reception. Radio reception does ~~not~~ improve at night, again with very modest results.

In areas of isolation the social impact of a lack of radio communications only tends to exacerbate our identity as remote and sometimes forgotten.

Local news items, sport, community service announcements and local advertisements serve little consequence when these can only be broadcast to within 40 km of where the "action" is.

Walpole is fast becoming a major tourist attraction with the now famous "Tree Top Walk" attracting over 200,000 visitors per year. This tourist icon is only 14 km from Walpole.

Comments at service and industry points eg Tourist Bureau, Service Stations and accommodation houses regularly express concern at the lack of radio, by the influx of visitors.

As Walpole is in the heart of the forest environment, particular concern has been raised on many occasions re the risk of Bush Fires during the summer and the distinct lack of radio communication to advise of any threat that may occur.

As Albany is our closest major town it would appear logically that this centre should be given access to extend its service to the Walpole area. Both FM and AM. Albany provides most of Walpole's Government services, shopping facilities and rural avenues. This would not reflect on any other provider.


Recently Walpole received funding from the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund to construct a communications mast and associated Telstra infrastructure.

The tower was built to a specification that could accommodate mobile phone network and the appropriate transmitting equipment for radio and television broadcasting.

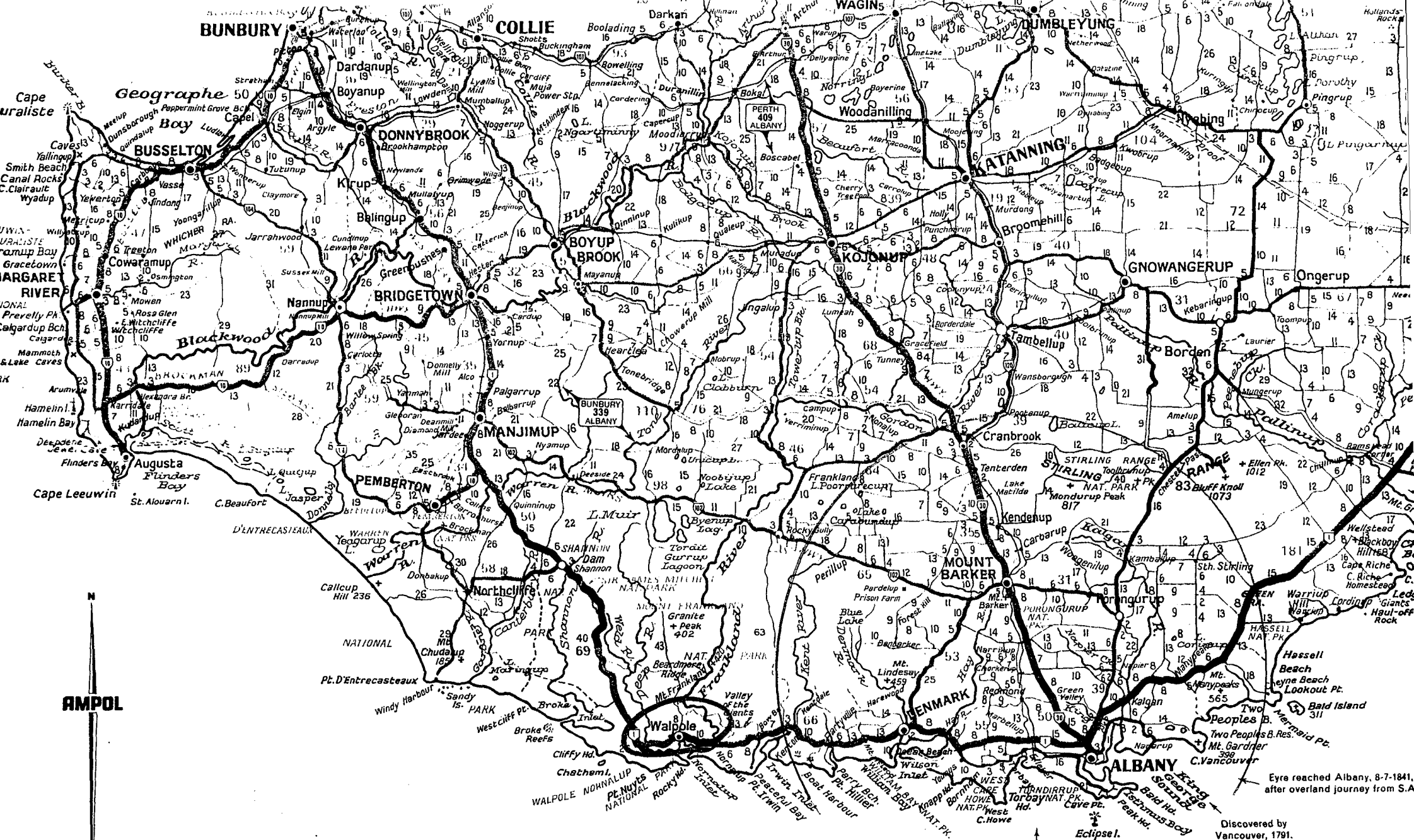
I understand this area of the State is identified as "Remote" and therefore covered via Karratha Radio. This station is situated nearly 2000 km to the North of Walpole. Presently there is no signal to transmit to our area.

From my observation with others in Regional WA where radio reception is a way of life and taken for granted I feel it is critical that all avenues be explored to extend the coverage to unite smaller rural towns like Walpole.

Yours faithfully,



Rod Burton:  
Secretary:  
Walpole Community Centre



Eyre reached Albany, 8-7-1841, after overland journey from S.A.

Discovered by Vancouver, 1791.

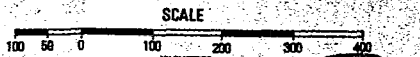
Settlement est. at Albany, 1828.

ALBANY'S RADIO DISTANCE

# WALBAYA

## LEGEND

- ..... O FREMANTLE
- MAJOR TOWNS ..... o Kalgoorlie
- ..... o Dampier
- OTHER TOWNS ..... • Halls Creek
- HIGHWAYS ..... ————
- MAIN ROADS ..... ————
- ROAD DISTANCES in Km ..... 1 283 1
- RAILWAYS ..... ————
- NATIONAL ROUTE NUMBERS ..... ————



Karratha in relation to Malfale  
Albany