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Submission to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry Into the adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia.

- We used to have a locally owned and controlled radio station, which was responsive to local views. Its talkback show was central to the getting information to the community, and councils and community groups heavily used it. The result was a cohesive and responsive population.
- Now we have a talkback show from Sydney with a host that knows nothing of local issues and people.
- It used to be that whenever the station was on the air, there was someone there who could get urgent messages to air immediately. Now there is often no one there, and no way to reach the local population at short notice. The local station was originally set up after the 1955 floods when the need for fast communication was realised, but we have lost this now.
- There used to be a big variation between local stations, and this was part of the character of the town and the district. Now you can drive from one state border to the next and listen to the same program all the way.
- I think it is a shame that our local stations are now only profit driven and have lost some of their sense of community.

Regards,
Peter Brooks
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