

Holmes, Janet (REPS)

From: Ciantar, Ray [Ray.Ciantar@gcdc.wa.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 10 June 2001 8:28 PM
To: janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au
Cc: kalgoorlie@radiowest.com.au; mason@kalnet.com.au
Subject: FW: 'Localism and networking in commercial radio' - an issue in K algoorlie-Boulder that should concern you . . .

Adam Cunningham
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Communications, Transport
and the Arts Inquiry into the Radio Industry

Dear Mr Cunningham

On the 10th November 2000 the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission made a written submission to your Inquiry, which you acknowledged receipt of on the 20th December 2000.

One of the appendices included a detailed submission by a person who requested that their identity not be disclosed. The submission gave an historical overview of the decline of local control and content of Kalgoorlie's commercial radio station 6KG since the early 1990's. The author, among other issues, specifically voiced concern over the future of the "Sunday Gold" program, the subject of the email below from Councillor Bill Mason of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. "Sunday Gold" is a great Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Goldfield's institution of twenty years (20) standing and hugely popular. A large part of that popularity, besides the great music that is played, is that the presenter lives in and is part of, the community and listeners interact and relate well to this. In light of the facts contained in Mr Mason's email it would appear that the anonymous author's worst fears regarding the threat posed to its continuation is about to be realized.

Considering that your inquiry into the Radio Industry was established precisely to address cases such as that presented by the threat to "Sunday Gold" by outsiders whose decision to "review" the program will probably mean its permanent demise; could you please advise whether the Standing Committee is able at this stage to investigate this sorry state of affairs as a matter of priority?

I would also be appreciative if you could inform me at what stage the Inquiry is generally at.

Regards

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Read our newsletter at www.gcdc.wa.gov.au/fr-newsletter.html

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Mason [mailto:mason@kalnet.com.au]
Sent: Sunday, 10 June 2001 21:50
To: Bill Mason (E-mail)

House of Representatives Standing
Committee on Communications,
Transport and the Arts
Submission No: 205.01
Date Received: 10/6/01
Secretary:

Subject: 'Localism and networking in commercial radio' - an issue in Kalgoorlie-Boulder that should concern you . . .

I'm writing to you about an important issue concerning Kalgoorlie-Boulder's commercial radio station - 6KG/RadioWest - and in particular the long-running Sunday morning program, Sunday Gold. At the outset, I should 'declare an interest' - David Kennedy - the presenter of Sunday Gold - is my brother-in-law.

'Sunday Gold' has become an institution in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and deservedly so! The first presenter (from 1981) was Bryan Dennis, who would go on to 'fame and fortune' as Kevin Bloody Wilson. Charmaine Anderson, (who would later become Regional Program Manager for the ABC here) was another presenter. Since 1985, David Kennedy has been spinning the discs and like his predecessors, bringing back the hits of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

So 2001 sees 20 years of Sunday Gold

As reported in The Kalgoorlie Miner recently the management of RadioWest has decided to 'review' the program, and thus for the past few weeks a Sunday morning show has been 'networked' from RadioWest's Bunbury studios - sometimes with a 'live' announcer but on at least one occasion sounding 'pre-recorded' and lacking the local spontaneity to which we have become accustomed.

So why does this matter? Why the fuss?

That a locally presented radio program has been taken off air is important and I hope concerns you, as much as it concerns me.

We already have enough 'network broadcasting' in our lives - Sunday Gold originating from Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a gem of 'localism' that out-of-towners are now trying to snuff out. If Sunday Gold had been on air last weekend you might have heard . . . a number of reports on the Menzies to Kalgoorlie bike race; a wrap up on the Great Southern Football Carnival; an exhortation to get down to the last day of the Centenary of Federation exhibition; information about the Soroptomists' Trash and Treasure (and all manner of similar 'community announcements'); road weather announcements; street closures and so on.

And all this wrapped up with hand-picked music - many favourites; some less well known; all presented with great knowledge of the social environment of the times and the musicians.

In short, it was a locally produced and presented radio program with 'personality'. Not pre-packaged, computer driven 'formula music' delivered from Bunbury, with zero local content.

I'm urging you to 'stand up and be counted'! Defend local broadcasting! Sunday Gold was and should remain an important part of Goldfields' weekends - entertaining and informing!

At present the RadioWest line is that the program has been 'suspended' and to quote Station Manager Antonell Caputo "More feedback from listeners is invited to assist the station's decision making".

So don't let Antonell down! Tell her what you think about this decision, that like so many other decisions foisted on us by uncaring out-of-towners, is all about money and cares little for important values such as tradition, quality and community.

Why not write to the Kalgoorlie Miner (kalminer@wanews.com.au) and/or The Golden Mail (goldmail@emerge.net.au) - so that everyone gets the message and knows that you care - then copy your email to Antonell at kalgoorlie@radiowest.com.au. I'd also appreciate a copy - mason@kalnet.com.au. Fax number for the Miner is 9021 7764 and 9091 8601 for The Golden Mail. My fax number is 9021 0238.

Or just email Antonell at kalgoorlie@radiowest.com.au. 6KG's fax number is 9091 2209, and the station's postal address is PO Box 10067, Kalgoorlie, 6433.

If you just don't have time to be writing, then ring Antonell on 9021 2666 or 0419 932 224 and give her a piece of your mind.

And finally - copy this email to five (or fifty) friends and urge them to take action.

We need strong, local action on this issue. Don't delay! Do it now!
Regards and thanks!

Councillor Bill Mason

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