

Secretary:.....

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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts

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20 MAR 2001

Mr. Paul C Neville, Member for Hinkler: National Party Whip.  
Chairman, Regional Radio Inquiry.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND  
THE ARTS

Mr Neville, have heard that your inquiry, will deal mostly with Commercial Radio, I and many other Western Australians, would like, your inquiry to include the ABC, it is only recently that, after many complaints, to Sue Howard--Director of Radio, that the Early morning[?to 6 am] announcers, have stopped telling us that it is 5.40 & 4.40, if you are in Queensland, we of course know that, it is 7.40 in Qld when it is 5.40 in W.A.

So here, is an outline of a mornings listening on "your ABC regional radio", 5.30am, local News Bulletin, then[ for the last 5 weeks, a James Wood] we get some music, weather Australia wide, Headland & Perth, plus about 20 towns east of Eucla, part ? of Pickwick Papers, then a background of some piano tuner, while Woods gives us, a roundup of World weather, and if as usual, he mistimes his epilogue, we have the piano tuner till 6am, then Australian & State news, followed by a preview of early A.M., then because we live in the middle, of Albany & Geraldton, we can have one, via Wagin Transmitter, or the other via Dalwallinu and or Northam, we have chosen Geraldton, because of the mix of music and local interviews, which are more relevant to our area, 6.30 local news, state wide weather, music etc, 7am General news, early A.M. exeast, 3 hours old, 7.30 local news, music, chit chat etc, all interspersed with time calls, goodbye local radio at 7.45. major news bulletin, 8am, A.M. 3 hours old, there have been occasions that, the news bulletin, makes the A.M. old hat, 8.30 am The Morning Show, Statewide with Liam Bartlett, where you get to hear what "LIAM" wants to talk about, and can sometimes get on, once a month, in between the City people, and if you disagree with Liam, you can get the short shrift, or if you are on his side and sappy enough you will get a good run, this goes on till 11am.

Prior to the Christmas break 1999, Ken Brand did the Regional Morning Show, which was a mixture, of reports from towns around the State, a fun quiz, to stir your brain, music, news, weather, interesting interviews and generally an enjoyable two & half hours. Now what we get is, the "Liam Bartlett Show" TV previews, of shows, which we cannot access or will not be on for several weeks and most are rubbish any how, diverting, why do we have to have, expensive digital, which no other Country has, to watch CRAP, clearer? if a little more money was spent on QUALITY PROGRAMMES I may be able to understand it. PLEASE Mr. Neville, your, the present Government, fell for the 3 card trick, the 99 year century [the New Millennium] the Y2K bug, none of our electronic equipment missed a beat, now it would appear that, you have fallen for the thimble & pea trick, back to Regional Radio, Western Australians, have different tastes to Eastern-staters, as do Banana Benders to Corn-stalkers to Gummy-shark-eaters, there is also a division between W.A. areas, after all, W.A. is as big as those 3 States put together and Rural People, have different tastes to City dwellers, this you should know, I hope that you can do something about this.

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In regard to this three hour delay, and programme tastes, Mukka, Ian Mcnamarra, to me, the most untalented man at the ABC [Sheir excluded] he cannot sing, or play the guitar, nor the trombone, but sings over the top of those who can, I tune in for the 6am news, this morning there was a band, Service or combined Service, playing a rendition of Waltzing Matilda, it was magnificent, and at the tail end there's Mukka warbling over the top, I am a better singer than he is, and the dogs leave when I start, ask quietly, and see how popular he is, specially as it is all 3 hours later, I complained once, that I could not ring and join in a subject, and was told that I could get up earlier, and would be able to;; as it would not be on air at, 2.30am I pondered on the brain power of the producer, and never listened again.

Recently, when Mukka was on holidays, over Xmas, I rang to have a go at, the lack of W.A. participants, there was a person, from Canberra, now employed over here, helping Colin Munro, he told me that he had an interview with a W.A. person and to hang on, as it would be being played within 15 minutes, I again wondered at the learning of persons east of Eucla, had I have sat with the phone in my ear, until the interview came on, and was heard, OK, but it was going to be three hours and fifteen minutes, before it was broadcast in W.A.

If Mukka is so popular, put him on LIVE, "them wot wants ta lissen ti 'im" can get up at 2.30 and then when he finishes at 7 am, we can enjoy 5 hours, split between John Cecil & George Manning, John who was doing the 10 to noon slot, until he was "promoted" to an eastern programme, coming from W.A., which goes to the East live and we get it played back 3 hours later, then George took over the 10 to noon on Sunday.

If the mexicans, want to change the time they rise, to in the dark, and go to bed in the daylight, what they should do, is a decent days work, then they will improve our economy and be too tired to play tennis, golf or what ever it is that they do, after they leave their place of "employment".

In conclusion, there is a person in Qld a Mr. Ryan, who is the music director for the ABC, it is he who chooses ALL the On-Line "music" to be played throughout Australia by the ABC, could you arrange for him to stand up at his job, and thus give his musical taste glands a chance to breath. As an example, of how far out his choices are, a top man with the W.A. ABC, held a phone-in, to name your Song of the Century, in December 1999, they were :- 1. What a Wonderful World--Louis Armstrong 2. Imagine---John Lennon 3. Still Call Australia Home---Peter Allen 4. Stardust---Frank Sinatra. 5 Unchained Melody---Everly Brothers. 6 As Time Goes By, 7 White Cliffs of Dover---Vera Lynn. 8 Lily Marlane, 9 Yesterday--The Beatles, 10 Summertime---L Armstrong, 11 Bridge Over Troubled Waters---12. Candle in the Wind---Elton John, 13 I Did It My Way, 14 Begin The Beguine---Artie Shaw, 15 We'll Meet Again---Vera Lynn, 16 Rock Around The Clock, 17 Ol' Man River, 18 Mack The Knife---Bobby Darrin, 19 Unforgettable--Nat King Cole, 20 Memories---Barbra Streisand, the man was Jim Shaw.

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**Carew, Rachel (REPS)**

**From:** Peter Read - Symphonia Wines [readsymphonia@mail.bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 March 2001 3:32 AM  
**To:** CTA.Reps@APH.Gov.Au  
**Subject:** ABC Regional Radio

Dear Mrs Holmes

Please find attached the submission as discussed.

Regards



Untitled

Peter Read