

## **SUBMISSION TO THE RADIO INDUSTRY INQUIRY**

The collapse of live regional radio as radio “networking” and “hubbing” takes over is yet another in a long list of services being lost in rural and regional Australia.

Syndicated news services and shared facilities account for an increasing amount of news services in regional stations and all the indications are that this will continue.

The social benefits and importance of local radio and locally originated content such as news, weather, current affairs, sports, community announcements and talk-back in rural and regional Australia cannot be overemphasised.

Radio is an integral party of rural communities. It not only provides entertainment, but it provides vital information to small business, to communities organising events, to voluntary sports organisers, to farming communities and a venue through talk-back shows to exchange views of a multitude of local issues.

No other medium can match radio for urgency. Radio can provide important information urgently to the elderly at home, to communities at large, to sporting teams and organisers. It can provide emergency notification of poor weather conditions to farmers and travellers and residents. It can provide information on road traffic conditions. And the list goes on. All these things are largely taken for granted in the metropolitan area. But the death of localism in radio in rural and regional Australia means we outside the leafy green suburban suburbs are rapidly losing yet another basic service.

I have urged local radio station in my electorate to supply the Radio Industry Inquiry with detailed submissions, and have therefore limited my comments to a broad overview.

The collapse of live regional radio urgently needs to be reversed and a halt put to the consolidation of stations, formation of larger networks and the increase in networking and shared facilities. Live regional newscasts, sports coverage, community service announcements, emergency announcements, talk-back radio and other forms of local content must be preserved and implemented as a matter of high priority



**Hon. Bob Katter, MP**  
**Member for Kennedy**

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