



THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS,
TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS**
MEDIA ALERT

8 September 2000

The House Communications Committee accepted the terms of reference for a broad ranging inquiry into the radio industry from Senator Richard Alston, the Minister for Communications, yesterday.

'The Committee has a long standing interest in the radio industry and we welcome this inquiry,' Chair of the Committee, Mr Paul Neville MP, said.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are as follows:

'The adequacy of radio services in regional and rural Australia and the extent to which there is a need for the Government to take action in relation to the quantity and the quality of radio services in regional and rural Australia, having particular regard to the following:

- ◆ The social benefits and influence on the general public of radio broadcasting in non-metropolitan Australia in comparison to other media sectors;
- ◆ Future trends in radio broadcasting, including employment and career opportunities, in non-metropolitan Australia;
- ◆ The effect on individuals, families and small business in non-metropolitan Australia of networking of radio programming, particularly in relation to local news services, sport, community service announcements and other forms of local content, and;
- ◆ The potential for new technologies such a digital radio to provide enhanced and more localised radio services in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.'

The Committee will launch the inquiry at the end of next week.

In the meantime, the Chair of the Committee, Mr Paul Neville MP, will be available for comment in his office at Parliament House (RG .95, ph 02 6277 4940) at 2.00 pm today.

For comment, please contact Mr Paul Neville MP on 02 6277 4940 or 07 4152 0744.

For information, please contact Janet Holmes, Inquiry Secretary on 02 6277 4601, facsimile 02 6277 2067, or at Jan.Connaughton.Reps@aph.gov.au.