

To The Secretary
House Communications Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Secretary:.....

Committee

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEES
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

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

Submission No: 101

Date Received: 25/10/00

Secretary: Janet Holmes

Dear Sir

I write to you in response to the advertised call for submissions on the adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia.

A lot of us who live in regional Australia like to hear more distant radio stations. This is especially true in areas not served by television transmission or when engaged in activities more suited to radio listening than television viewing. Or as is frequently the case, when television programmes are so asinine as to be insulting.

One of the problems relating to radio services in the country, as rumour would have it, is caused by a Government Department that regulates licencing of radio stations.

I am referring to what is best described as 'a strident disco beat' that comes on, mostly at night and drowns out most of the other stations.

The rumour is, that this is done to prevent pirates using any unoccupied channels. If this is true, then it is a great disregard of the needs of country people.

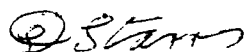
My other comment would be in relation to the selling of new licences to the highest bidder. As a result of this, all the channels around Cooma, both AM and FM seem to be owned by the same company.

This company has decided that their target audience is the teenagers coming from Sydney for the snowfields or the mountain hiking.

The local population gets a few minutes of attention each day, no doubt because we are seen as a captive audience. Perhaps if the licences were held by divers companies, we would be seen not just as a captive audience to use as a selling point when seeking advertisers but as an audience to be courted and catered for.

We in the country would like to enjoy some of the options available to city people, to listen to a national broadcaster like the ABC or one of the big City stations that actually direct their programming at more than just their city audience, and then when we choose to, listen to a truly local station that is part of the local community.

Yours faithfully



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23/10/2000