

Secretary:.....

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20 OCT 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND  
THE SECRETARY'S

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE,  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

*previously faced 12/10*

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**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF RADIO SERVICES IN NON - METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIA**

My name is Greg Ryan and I am an employee of Environment Australia. As Chief Ranger for Mary River District in Kakadu National Park I am making this submission on behalf of rangers, Aboriginal residents and their respective families who live on, and in the vicinity of, Mary River Ranger Station in southern Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.

We live 70 kilometres east of Pine Creek and 150 kilometres south of Jabiru on the Kakadu Highway and 300 kilometres south east of Darwin. The station consists of 7 rangers and their families. The aboriginal staff have extended families who often reside at the station and total numbers of people can be in the order of 25 people. We have no access to AM or FM radio services and have had no access to these services since the station was established in 1986. On an aboriginal outstation 50 kilometres to the east of the Mary River Ranger Station is Gimbat outstation. These people are from the Jawoyn tribe and have resided at the outstation for 3 years following a successful land claim over the area in 1995. Again these people numbering approximately 15 men, women and children have no access to AM or FM radio services.

Both outstations have access to ABC and Imparja television via satellite service but this is often unreliable being particularly adversely affected by climatic conditions during the 6 months of the Wet season.

We all feel tremendously disadvantaged in this situation. The nearest town which provides a supermarket, doctors, bank, post office, library, sporting clubs and social support is Jabiru which is a 300 kilometre round trip. A small school exists at Pine Creek but no bus service is provided and the 140 kilometre round trip precludes daily school attendance. Historically parents at both outstations have accessed School of the Air via Katherine to meet the educational needs of our children.

We feel strongly that access to local, national and international news services, indigenous programs, and educational and human interest programs, music and access to general networks will greatly enhance and socially benefit our small communities.

Yours sincerely,



**GREG RYAN,  
CHIEF RANGER,  
MARY RIVER DISTRICT,  
KAKADU NATIONAL PARK.**

12 OCTOBER 2000

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

Submission No: *39*

Date Received: *12/10/00*

Secretary: *Janet Helms*