



<b>THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT</b>
<b>HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>

### The adequacy of radio services in regional Australia

The spotlight will fall on the performance of the Australian Broadcasting Authority in administering the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* in a public hearing in Logan on Monday 19 February 2001. The hearing is part of the House of Representatives Communications Committee's inquiry into the adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia.

'Much of the evidence that we have heard to date in this inquiry' said the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Paul Neville MP, 'concerns the impact of changes to the broadcasting environment brought about by the Broadcasting Services Act 1992. However, we have also received evidence that suggests there have been some significant problems in the administration of that Act by the ABA'.

In its submission to the inquiry, SUN FM asserts that one of the main factors impeding its ability to adequately serve their market has been a series of poor management decisions/inaction by the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

The committee will also be taking evidence from ATSIC, the National Indigenous Radio Services, the Star Broadcasting Network, Bundaberg Broadcasters Pty Ltd, 101FM Community Radio, Radio 4GG Heartland FM and the Ipswich City Council.

'This is a very broad ranging inquiry', said Mr Neville. 'The changes in the regulatory environment coupled with technological developments have led to substantial changes in the ownership and delivery of radio services in regional Australia. We have received an enormous amount of conflicting evidence in submissions about the impact of these changes. It is critical that we get to the bottom of it so that we can find ways of achieving a balance between industry viability requirements and providing for a diverse range of quality radio services for regional Australia.'

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Who:	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts
What:	Inquiry into the adequacy of radio services in rural and regional Australia
Where:	Logan City Council Chambers
When:	Monday, 19 February 2001, 9.00am - 4.30 pm

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The House Communications Committee Chairman, Mr Paul Neville MP, is available for preview interviews by contacting Scott Whitby 07 4152 0744. For further information on the inquiry, please contact Janet Holmes, Inquiry Secretary, on 0413 085 765, or via email [Janet.Holmes.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Janet.Holmes.Reps@aph.gov.au).

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 [janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au).

Public hearing program attached.