

Secretary: .....

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28 SEP 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT  
AND THE ARTS



# ELLIOTT DISTRICT COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

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194/0900

29 September 2000

The Secretary,  
House Communications Committee,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts	
Submission No: .....	2
Date Received: .....	29 September 2000
Secretary: .....	Janet Holmes

Dear Sir/Madam,

## ADEQUACY OF RADIO SERVICES IN NON-METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIA

We wish to comment on the adequacy of Radio Services to this town and also in respect of the Stuart Highway between Tennant Creek and Katherine in the Northern Territory.

Elliott is a small town situated on the Stuart Highway 255 kms North of Tennant Creek and 275 kms South of Katherine. It has a population of approximately 600 residents.

The town has no radio transmitter and the only radio transmitter site is near Newcastle Waters Station, which is 23 kms North of the town. However, the town cannot pick up the radio signal on normal household radio sets, and the only residents who do obtain access to it have put up external radio aerials.

Ninety percent of the people who reside in the town do not have the financial resources to erect the required aerial and therefore most people in town do not have access to a radio service.

This is considered quite unacceptable in this day and age, especially when the magnificent variations to global telecommunications services that exist in Metropolitan Australia are read about.

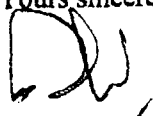
The provision of a radio service along the Stuart Highway from Tennant Creek to Katherine would enable the many thousands of visitors each year who use the main highway of the Northern Territory to obtain at least one radio reception. Most travelers are either retirees or from overseas and the absence of any radio services on this isolated Highway is unsatisfactory, especially with the plethora of commercial radio available in Metropolitan areas continues to expand.

There simply is no excuse for at least one ABC radio service not to be made available.

We would like to think that the Committee is sincere in its desire to provide a better radio service to remote areas such as Elliott but in view of the reduction in ABC services that have occurred in recent years we are skeptical that anything that will benefit this small isolated community will be forthcoming.

Nevertheless, we can remain hopeful and we would be pleased to provide any further details that may assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Okely  
Town Clerk