

Cunningham, Adam (REPS)

From: The South Australian Country Women's Assoc. Inc. [sacwa@dove.net.au]
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2000 10:04 AM
To: cta.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: Radio Industry Enquiry

Senator the Hon Richard Alston

14 November 2000

Re: Radio Industry Inquiry

Members of The South Australian Country Women's Association Incorporated believe that:

1. Radio communication in rural Australia is indispensable particularly for market reports, weather reports, and for all the general information given out to rural families especially on the ABC Breakfast session and the ABC Country Hour.
2. In many rural areas a daily newspaper is not available and therefore country people rely on the ABC to provide a comprehensive, unbiased coverage of news both overseas, national and local. Programmes such as AM, PM, 7.30 Report, Four Corners all provide material to keep listeners informed about current affairs. There are still areas of the country not serviced adequately by other communication systems such as television and the Internet so that maintenance of an efficient and informative radio service is vital to many families.
3. At the present time a large portion of local news and information broadcast to rural area is collected and disseminated by local reporters/researchers to listeners in that area. This is a very important service and must be maintained. Currently reports relating to seasonal matters eg locust reports, grain silo reports concerning deliveries (space availability as well as information about specific grades of grain are being received) are required by many rural families.
4. They also understand that since the conclusion of the Sydney Olympic Games, much of the technology no longer required is being utilised in local areas for which they commend Telstra.

In conclusion, members of the South Australian Country Women's Association Inc consider it essential that, at the very least, the services provided by radio particularly to non-metropolitan listeners must be maintained.

Yours faithfully

Roslyn Schumann

STATE PRESIDENT