
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Regional Radio Racing Services

**Inquiry into the impact of the decision by ABC radio to
discontinue its radio racing service**

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

June 2000
Canberra

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ISBN [Click **here** and type ISBN Number]



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Membership of the Committee

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Terms of reference

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts is to inquire into and report on the impact of the decision by ABC Radio to discontinue its radio racing service under the following terms of reference.

- The extent of, and the value placed on, the coverage of the ABC's radio racing service.
- The impact of the discontinuation of the service on the community and the industry.
- The current extent of radio racing coverage and gaps in that coverage.
- Future options for the provision of broadcasting services of racing in regional Australia.

(These terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Hon Richard Alston, on 15 June 1999.)



List of abbreviations

ABA	Australian Broadcasting Authority
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ACA	Australian Communications Authority
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
FARB	Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters
LAP	Licence Area Plan
LPON	Low Power Open Narrowcast
NAC	National Advisory Council



List of recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should prepare amendments to the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* to require the Australian Broadcasting Corporation under its Charter to consult more openly and comprehensively with its audience (paragraph 2.35).

Recommendation 2

The Minister for Communications, Information and Technology and the Arts should request the Auditor-General to conduct a performance audit of the history, efficiency and effectiveness of the planning and allocation of radiofrequency spectrum by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (paragraph 3.23).

Recommendation 3

In those areas where spectrum is known to be available, a broadcaster wishes to provide a radio racing service and the Licence Area Planning process has not been completed, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should direct the Australian Broadcasting Authority to make spectrum available until such time as the Licence Area Planning process is completed (paragraph 3.26).

Recommendation 4

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should direct the Australian Broadcasting Authority to renew existing open narrowcast licences held by racing radio broadcasters by way of application under s.100 of the Radiocommunications Act 1992 and make the period for which the licences are renewed five years (paragraph 3.50).

Recommendation 5

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, in the event of narrowcast licences being renewed under s.106 of the Radiocommunications Act 1992, should prepare amendments to the Radiocommunications Act 1992 to provide for transmitter licences to be issued for a maximum period of ten years (paragraph 3.52).

Recommendation 6

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should direct the Australian Broadcasting Authority to review the operation of the open narrowcasting category of licence with a view to creating within it a special category of open narrowcasting licence for the broadcast of racing in regional, rural and remote areas (paragraph 3.56).

Recommendation 7

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should direct the Australian Broadcasting Authority, as part of its review of the Open Narrowcasting Category of licence, to work in collaboration with the Australian Communications Authority to assess the potential to extend the power of Low Power Open Narrowcasting services for racing broadcasts and to determine the implications of such a measure on other broadcast licence categories (paragraph 3.69).

Recommendation 8

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should insert conditions on LPON licences that require the licence holder to use the licence within a given period of time or lose it (paragraph 3.76).

Recommendation 9

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts should direct the Australian Broadcasting Authority to make available, where possible, high power FM licences in regional and remote areas to racing broadcasters who are interested in obtaining them. The licences should have attached a use it or lose it condition and a requirement that licence holders transmit at full power (paragraph 3.98).

