

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND INC.**

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27 October 2000

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Communications Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Secretary:.....

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

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

Submission No: 258

Date Received: 2/11/00

Secretary: Janet Holmes

Dear Ms Holmes

Radio Industry Inquiry – LGAQ Submission

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) thanks you for your letter of 25 September 2000 regarding the above and the opportunity to contribute our submission to the Inquiry.

At the recent LGAQ Annual Conference, a motion was carried to make representation to the Federal Minister for Communications, Information Technology and The Arts, Senator the Hon Richard Alston to have the ABC AM Radio Service re-introduce the broadcasting of racing programs to regional areas.

The Association considers that the removal of the service has impacted mostly on the people in the more remote areas of the State, as there is no viable alternative to the ABC AM radio service in the remote rural areas.

Some Councils in remote areas have purchased the rebroadcasting of racing via FM radio services, but this service, at best, covers a distance of 14 km from the transmission site, therefore only services the town centre.

The re-introduction of this service would greatly add to the quality of lifestyle of people in rural and remote areas.

We have also received the following advice from Boonah Shire Council, which is a rural shire located in the South Eastern part of the State that demonstrates that the issues that Councils are having with radio services are not limited to the far northern and far western areas of Queensland.

Boonah Shire Council states that current radio services within the Shire are poor and most FM signals are weak – if received at all. Of services available, most are metropolitan based and do not provide a local service. However, a local community group, Scenic Rim Broadcasting Association Inc, are working towards establishing a community based radio station. The advantages of having a local and community-based station will be immense. It would present the opportunity for residents, local organisations and businesses to provide information on community events, advertising and local news bulletins. At the present time, this group is experiencing difficulty in obtaining a licence application and gaining a frequency through the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

Therefore, the Council would greatly appreciate the following issues being considered (and these same issues apply to other Councils in Queensland):-

- Better accessibility to funding by local community groups to establish a community radio;
- Improved processes to ensure efficient progress of licence applications, and;
- Consideration of licence and radio frequency applications from non-metropolitan areas in their own right.



The value placed on effective radio services to rural and regional areas is immense; as for some people it is their only regular link to good quality news and information. Therefore, the Association would ask you to favourably consider the issues raised above.

The Association's contact on this matter is **Steve Greenwood, Manager, Planning & Social Policy on 3000 2237.**

Yours sincerely

GREG HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR
POLICY & RESEARCH

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