



Australian Government
**Australian Communications
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Dr Ian Holland
Secretary,
Senate Estimates Committee on Environment
Communications and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

**Senate Estimates Hearings Monday 18 February, 2008 – appearance by officers
of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)**

At the Estimates hearing on 18 February 2008, Mr Chris Chapman, Chair of Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) agreed to a request made by Senator Johnston about providing Authority papers relating to the allocation of two community radio broadcasting licences in Perth.

The Authority considered this matter under Section 92J of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, at a meeting on 19 - 20 December 2007 and under Section 92J of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. On 7 January 2008, a delegate of the Authority varied the licence periods of the temporary community broadcasting licences held by Capital Community Radio (CCR) and Western Sports Media so that the licenses expired on 21 January 2008. This was done to enable the allocation of a licence authorising CCR to provide a long term community broadcasting service from 22 January 2008.

I attach for the information of the Committee the relevant Authority papers and attachments. At the Estimates hearing it was foreshadowed that some information in the paper may have been provided to ACMA on the basis that it was commercially sensitive and would be kept confidential. The information on pages 14 and 37 of Attachment A to the Authority paper is deleted as it was provided in confidence to ACMA. The information is the identity of a third party who had agreed to lend a significant amount of money to one of the applicants, Phoenix Radio. The money was to be used by Phoenix Radio to establish a service if it were allocated a long term community radio broadcasting licence.

Please accept my apologies for not providing this documentation within the timeframe that was agreed during the Estimates hearing. The delay was related to an illness of a key ACMA officer dealing with the confidential information.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Cahill
Executive Manager
Strategy & Co-ordination

7/3/08