

2 October 2008



Dr Ian Holland  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

**Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2008**

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee Inquiry into the *Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2008*.

I note that the proposed legislative amendments will ensure the community broadcasting sector retains the right to participate in the ownership of digital radio transmission infrastructure that will be jointly used by the commercial and community sectors. It is appropriate and entirely consistent that the option of an ownership role be retained in the legislative framework in line with the extended start date, and in light of the Federal Government's funding commitment commencing in the 2009-10 financial year to facilitate the participation of community broadcasters in the digital radio framework.

The CBAA believes these are important first steps to enable participation of community broadcasters and would welcome further examination in future of all options to enable community broadcasters to provide digital radio services. I also reiterate our long term policy position of seeking a full ownership model for digital radio and digital capacity equivalence with other broadcasting sectors. However, the limits of current spectrum availability, the legislative framework, and funding timetables are acknowledged.

Please contact me on (02) 9318 9600 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Bawden', written in a cursive style.

Michele Bawden  
GENERAL MANAGER