

Submission from the Australian Radio DX Club inc (Vic) Reg A0011728G.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment (Restoring Shortwave Radio) Bill 2017.

Reference to:

The Bill would require the ABC to restore its shortwave transmission services, following the announcement by the ABC in December 2016 that it would end its shortwave transmission service in the Northern Territory and to 29 January 2017.

6th April, 2017.

To whom it may concern.

The Australian Radio DX club is an organisation, (not for profit), operating since June 1965. We have at this time 131 members throughout each state and territory of Australia. We also have approximately 15 members overseas.

Essentially our members listen to long distance signals, these being primarily shortwave and medium wave services.

Our members, are have backgrounds in a huge variety of professional ad non professional areas. These include, farmers, engineers, accountants, lawyers, flight crew, to truck drivers.

As being associated in co-operation with the ABC Radio Australia in particular the shortwave services we can give great insight over the many years of co-operation, on programme feedback and operational matters including frequency selection and reception thereof.

Firstly ABC charter is called into question over the cancellation of such services in relation to the Northern Territory shortwave services closing.

In specifically the one station that should be kept open is Alice Springs on 4.835 khz. Its not only my experience but other members that this solitary station has the most wide range, of coverage into REMOTE areas. This idea of the internet, satellite etc...is okay until something goes wrong, then there has to be a technician sent many miles sometimes days to arrive with parts to fix the problems. This lack of coverage is seen to be in any fair thinking person in remote areas is one of being cut off from information. A point of on times survival of warning. Yes I have been in remote areas of the Territory and parts of Western Australia to very remote communities.

Radio Australia.

This ABC icon since 1939 has given the world information about Australia on all matters including health, well being, news information on weather, unrest, wars, the list is long. Interestingly in the 90's foreign affairs in Canberra provided money to keep Radio Australia alive. Today our poor neighbours in New Zealand look after the Pacific with 1 X 100 kw transmitter, After the decision to end Radio Australia's role in the Pacific. Former head of Radio Australia, Jean-Gabriel Manguay said in a Radio New Zealand interview, aired on shortwave November 2016, when rumour of closure of shortwave services to the Pacific, that the people in the ABC making such decisions had no idea of the consequences what the effect would be like in the island nations of New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon's, the Cook Islands and Fiji. The services of communication are by radio as there is no power or interrupted supplies of power, no internet, no satellite available.

This effect, has been immediate of late the Chinese have programming into the Pacific area, this in the long run is dangerous as to the sphere of influence of China. Where is the balance? As an organisation we track these signals, China uses up to 500 kw transmitters. Surely we have some sort of foreign intelligence?

The decision, to close radio Australia, also prompted from the ABC about reception advice. Well what a cop out, an automated reply. The ABC board needs to be examined for breaches of the ABC Charter, furthermore the damage, that this has caused.

The response even came in a letter from Ghent in Belgium to our organisation about what was happening about Radio Australia. As you all know, Flanders region our Anzacs gave their lives in return the response is we have shut out a person that takes interest in what is happening to Radio Australia. The letter is on file as evidence. Yes he hears Radio Australia and Alice springs when on air!

Surely we can keep the three transmitters at Shepparton, as we as Australia, losing our sphere of influence in the Pacific area and 1 transmitter at Alice Springs for domestic operations. What's the greatest need ?, to help our neighbours in the Pacific and they help us, or maybe Ramsey in the Solomon Islands, to give away our neighbours protection and a foreign relations disaster.

Please, give thought to the consequences of the decisions being made, for our future.

JOHN WRIGHT Life member Secretary.