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Submission on Emergency Communications issues

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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To Whom it may concern,

I am currently the deputy LEMO at Bellingen Shire Council, and have experienced communication problems here during natural disasters, and special events in Sydney.

Issues I have experienced and foresee are:

- **Over-reliance on mobile phone communication**, as I experienced when Manager of Ranger Services at Mosman Council Sydney on New Year's Eve 2000, when we were relying on mobile phone communication to SES, NP&WS, Police & Fire Brigade, etc, when due to the massive amounts of call being made, the system was jammed. As result Council re-instated the two way radio system.
- **Compatibility of two way radio systems** between agencies such as Councils, analogue vs. digital.
- **Over-reliance on one repeater station** in an area e.g. such as Mount Francis in Dorrigo used by multiple agencies. An ability to have adequate back up repeaters, or a mobile system similar to television outdoor broadcast vehicles. (Coffs Harbour /Bellingen does also have Mt Moombah but it is not as effective)
- **Appropriate communication available at neighbourhood safer places**, including independent recharging ability for mobile phones, laptops, radio batteries etc. Whether by using generators or simply hand held chargers.

Regards Brett
Brett Hannaford