

1 Mar 2017

To Whom It May Concern

Excuse me if this does not follow the submission guidelines as it is difficult on the website to navigate to the guidelines.

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 international audiences from 31 January 2017.

I am a technician and traveller and due to work travel within the Northern Territory at times traversing between the greater Darwin area and down to Katherine at times and in the past to the Alice region.

During my journeys I have relied on the ABC shortwave services broadcasting from Katherine, Tennant Ck and Roe Ck in the N.T. on its 3 frequencies for the different times of the day. This is the ONLY way I can access current news from the Australian scene albeit I could tune into Radio New Zealand or Radio Indonesia and access other worldly news. This is also a lifeline for emergency services of which is supposidly in the charter of the ABC. I must also state that if I am near or around near town sites the ability to tune into FM broadcasts is fine but once outside FM range it is only the ABC Shortwave service that I rely on. Mounting a VAST Dish on my vehicle roof rack is not really an option.

I had previously worked at NAVCOMSTA Harold E Holt (Naval Communications Station) during Cyclone Vance which hit in March 1999.

This cyclone had caused major damaged to most of the housing in and around Exmouth during the time. Also VANCE had damaged infrastrucute at NAVCOMSTA HEH i.e. the main 30 metre satellite communications dish and its V-Satellite dish. The point that I am making is that if comunities in cyclone prone areas rely totally on the VAST satellite service then I can guarantee that damage will occur to the VAST dishes due to missile conectivity from debre. As a systems technician I believe strongly in equipment redundancy. If a VAST satellite dish is destroyed in a cyclone there is NO BACKUP / REDUNDANCY.

The ABC is lucky thus far that another Cyclone VANCE has not occurred as yet this wet season.

As with the SHORTWAVE service only a small portable radio with a telescopic antenna is required and no expensive VAST equipment of which most people cannot afford. There is redundancy within the SHORTWAVE service and that is its other transmission sites.

I was not aware of the ABC survey that had supposidly occurred during December 2016 sometime and had only found out about its decission in January 2017. I had since during that time advised the ABC of my concerns of which is falling on deaf ears. Michelle Guthery needs to get out more into the great Austalian outback and experience for herself the dilemma.

Avid ABC Shortwave Listener.