

Hello,

I work at ABC regional station 97.3 ABC Illawarra. My office location is Wollongong.

I am concerned about the ability to listen to our radio station in what is increasingly becoming a digital broadcast environment.

You cannot pick up ABC Illawarra on digital radio, or streamed or pre-recorded over the internet. The only way you can listen is via a standard analogue radio. I believe this is the case for all regional and rural ABC radio stations.

I recently went on holidays down the south coast where I could listen to ABC 702 Sydney, Radio National or even ABC Darwin or 666 Canberra, but not the local station 97.3 ABC Illawarra.

I didn't bring an 'old' radio, and the holiday house didn't supply one. I can sort of understand why.

I believe ABC Illawarra broadcasting on 97.3FM has a larger broadcast audience than ABC radio stations in Darwin, Canberra and Hobart, where digital services are available.

We now receive calls at work daily calling for digital streaming, or ways to listen to missed broadcasts, but we simply have to tell them the services available in metropolitan areas unfortunately aren't available in the regions.

It seems like a clear differentiation of services to me and I think it needs to be addressed.

Thank You.