



**THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMUNICATIONS,**  
**TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

27 October 2000

**ABC FUNDING CUTS**  
**AN ISSUE FOR THE REGIONAL RADIO INQUIRY**

The House Communications Committee has extended the closing date for submissions to its inquiry into the adequacy of radio services in regional and rural Australia by two weeks.

The Committee is examining the extent to which there is a need for the Government to take action in relation to the quantity and quality of radio services in the region. The Committee is considering the services provided by the ABC and by commercial and community broadcasters.

Chairman Paul Neville MP said the extended closing date followed the ABC Board's decision to reduce funding to the national broadcaster's news and current affairs division.

"The Committee has already been approached by people wishing to make submissions regarding the ABC Board's decision as there is a perception that this could impact on services in regional and rural areas," he said.

"Extending the closing date will allow the Committee to test this perception and hear the views of country residents and organisations, who have thus far concentrated heavily on commercial radio in their submissions.

"Equally, it will give the ABC the opportunity to describe the range and quality of services it intends to deliver to non-metropolitan areas of Australia in the future."

Mr Neville said the closing date for submissions was advertised as being today, but the Committee would be happy to receive submissions from the ABC and from listeners at any time over the next fortnight.

Submissions on this matter, or any of the other issues we are examining, should be sent, by Friday 10 November 2000, to the following address:

The Committee Secretary  
House Communications Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

For comment, please contact Paul Neville MP (the Committee Chair) on (07) 4152 0744 or 041 9704767.

For information, please contact the Inquiry Secretary, Janet Holmes, on (02) 6277 4601 or [janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's web site at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta)