

The Director, National and Community Broadcasting.

Department of Communications and the Arts.

RE: Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific.

Australian Radio DX Club inc Vic Reg A0011728G.

To whom it may concern.

Many arguments can be made for the restoration of short wave services to our Pacific neighbours.

Conversely the one concern is about cost and effectiveness of short wave.

As the leading short wave club in the Pacific area, the members are all of one nature.

Simply, the nature of short wave signals can make a huge difference in remote areas where the infrastructures are weak to support satellite, internet and the like, same for the topography of the area being served. These areas are the Pacific area including Papua New Guinea, Indonesia. Also and occasions remote areas of Australia, depending upon frequencies and times of these transmissions.

Short wave can also provide a valid source of news, current affairs, programmes that are educational and essentially a balance of truth, and of emergency warnings of weather.

A simple piece of wire and a battery radio is a life line to the Pacific nations. The cost is affordable to the people who listen, (or use to listen to Radio Australia). The Pacific nations have some satellite and internet services but can the average islander can not afford the costs let alone get a service that works.

Yet as of 2/8/18 0800 UTC we have China on 15740 broadcasting an almost perfect signal with Chinese then English. This is a new frequency. The sphere of influence of China is a discreet threat to Australia and the Pacific.

The 2017 Parliamentary senate enquiry, our organisation we were 14th on the list of submissions and the first to mention China influence.

The ABC reported recently of China Radio International taking over the Radio Australia frequencies. What has Australia done about this? Nothing is the answer.

We have no voice, for our neighbours.

Shepparton can be put back on air, and our organisation will support by providing listener responses for No cost.

I urge that the short wave services be restored, and resources given for this to happen forthwith. When has Australia turned our backs on peoples facing ruin? Answer is, We are doing this since Radio Australia was dumped by the board of the ABC, by people that couldn't care less. More about KPI's and look at me with ignorance.

We urge that Radio Australia is returned to the air.

JOHN WRIGHT Life member Secretary.