

From: Daniel Clift [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 3 August 2018 1:28 PM
To: asia pacific media review
Subject: Radio Australia

Australian Government

Department of Communications and the Arts

Via online submission

Re: Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the years, Australia has had an advantage not always available from other countries with the facilities which radio Australia provides.

As such, shortwave radio may be an old technology but it is the most appropriate technology which covers a wide areas of the Australian continent and surrounding islands.

Shortwave coverage of the entire continent does not require massive transmitter sites or power compared to any other technology. It is not unusual to be able to hear a single shortwave transmitter across all of Australia with the right choice of transmission frequency and time of day, and it does not take huge amounts of power to do so, as mentioned.

Shortwave receivers are rugged, inexpensive and can be battery or solar powered, without the requirement of mains power. Shortwave receivers can be portable or vehicle mounted, which is very important, if not essential for people in remote areas of the continent or those traversing the middle of Australia. Tourists and indigenous communities, and those who drive this continent for a living.

Shortwave services can serve to back up medium wave AM and VHF FM local broadcast stations in WA, NT & QLD coastal areas, which are prone to damage from cyclones. Shortwave is an essential means of communicating cyclone and tropical storm information to islanders and ships at sea.

I was personally sad when the then Government made a decision to close Radio Australia which was an important avenue for bringing world and Australian news into the tiny island nations in the Pacific. Radio Australia is a very important means of maintaining a democratic influence in places like Fiji, which has been under control of a military junta after a coup some years ago. Radio Australia is also a stellar example of how journalism should operate in a free society. Radio Australia stories often give small broadcasters and publishers in island nations cause to publish their own works to supplant the information supplied by Radio Australia. This can have dramatic influence on the democratic nature of island nations in the region, improving quality of life for their inhabitants, in simply knowing what is happening in other parts of the world..

Moreover, shortwave broadcasting is very inexpensive to operate. Surely, a budget around \$3 to \$4 million is a very tiny expenditure for what I see as very good value, for all in the region.

I would ask that you please consider restoring the Radio Australia shortwave broadcasting services. I am led to believe the transmitting facilities still exist and content is still being generated for the Radio Australia online service; so, why not simply 'turn it back on'!

Kind Regards

Daniel Clift

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