

Submission by Graeme Morgan to the Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific.

I wish to provide my opinion for the review process:

I'm an Australian who from 2011 until 2013 lived in the Central Province of Papua New Guinea, where I was a daily listener to Radio Australia's shortwave broadcasts.

Radio Australia's broadcasts were invaluable to me living in the Pacific. Firstly the local broadcasting services from Port Moresby could be slow in providing news, whereas Radio Australia could be relied upon to provide timely, up to date news on local events.

Although I was only located approximately 30km from Port Moresby, Radio Australia's FM transmissions were out of range meaning shortwave broadcasts were the only way to access Radio Australia's programming. In addition to being out of range of the FM transmissions from Port Moresby, using the internet to access programming was impractical. Firstly the only way to access the internet was via mobile internet which was very expensive to use and unreliable. I know at that time there were no plans to build fixed line services where I lived, and I would be surprised if it were to ever occur.

Another factor which made Australian shortwave broadcasts invaluable was even if accessing mobile internet services had been affordable, with power outages often lasting a week or longer mobile phones would quickly go flat. In contrast battery operated shortwave receivers (which were cheaply available in local supermarkets) could be used for a much longer duration. Also it wasn't uncommon to see car stereos capable of tuning the shortwave bands. I never saw satellite broadcast receiving equipment in Papua New Guinea.

To conclude I believe Australian broadcasting into the Asia-Pacific to be very worthwhile in particular the re-introduction of Radio Australia's shortwave broadcasts to reach those living outside major cities.

Graeme Morgan

02 August 2018