

## Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific

- Implications of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation cessation of shortwave broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific region in January 2017

The cessation of SW radio transmission by the ABC has had dramatic safety, political and humanitarian implications domestically and within the Asia-Pacific region.

The “replacement” FM transmitters are *incomparable* in range to SW, resulting in a much smaller coverage footprint. This has serious implications for mobile (in-vehicle) reception of routine and emergency broadcast messages, especially throughout outback Australia. The discontinuation of transmissions from the Alice Springs and Katherine transmitters has resulted in an effective blackout throughout much of central Australia. Supplying satellite connectivity to remote homesteads is of no use to those working and travelling in remote areas.

Radio Australia was a long-standing source of independent local, regional and global information throughout the Asia-Pacific region. This message could be transmitted directly to any person with a SW radio receiver. The supply of satellite and FM transmitters to these areas is prone to technical and political disruption, especially given the prevalence of natural disasters and political instability in the region.

Maintaining a small number of strategically located SW transmitters, with proven excellent domestic and international coverage, is a relatively low cost and easily serviceable alternative to an extensive network of remote local relay sites.

The reinstatement of ABC SW radio services could be achieved rapidly and at minimal cost, with lasting domestic and international benefits.

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