

**SUBMISSION BY HUON FM I95.3 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY BROADCASTING.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Huon FM 95.3 is a community radio station based at Geeveston in the Huon Valley in Tasmania. It services the Huon Valley (population 23,500) and Kingborough (28,000).

- Huon FM has 30 on air presents aged from 10 to mid-late seventies.
- Members of the community are encouraged to become actively involved in the station.
- Huon FM is entirely run on a voluntary basis, no member is paid for their services
- The station is run by a management committee.
- Huon FM welcomes the involvement of minority groups and encourages the broadcasting of programs by members of minority groups and organisations.
- Schools, sporting clubs, charities, community festivals, local government. All use Huon FM to publicise and promote their activities.
- Huon FM is a registered emergency service and during floods, fires and other disasters and emergencies the station's priority is to broadcast emergency information, if necessary staffing the station 24 hours a day.
- We train an average of 30 volunteers each year and since the inception of the station estimate that approximately 500 people have been trained to go on air.
- Huon FM pursues a policy that encourages community participation in all aspects of its operations. Our programs pursue diversity and independence, concentrating on local issues, providing a complementary and supplementary broadcasting service and offering support for local musicians, artists and culture.
- Programs are designed to cater for the needs of the local community. The station regularly talks to listeners to ascertain their views and maintains a request book, listener feedback book and complaints register.
- For a number of years Huon FM has been involved in Work For The Dole programs (currently two a year)..
- Huon FM is the only electronic media based in the Huon Valley-Kingborough areas. In some places within the Huon Valley and Kingborough Huon FM is the only radio station that can be received by residents
- The local geography presents a challenge to the station with a number of pockets where reception is marginal or non-existent. One recurring problem is the quality and consistency of our air signal to the transmitter
- The installation of a new transmitter sited to properly service the Kingborough area will be a major improvement for the station.
- The annual budget of Huon FM is \$26,000 which is raised from sponsorship income (48%) Work for the Dole 30% Grants 11% donations and fundraising, loans and membership (10%).

- Our main expenditure is: Electricity \$1500, Telephone and line costs, \$4100, Insurance \$2850, Licence Fees (APRA and AMCOS) \$1800.
- There is strong case for some of the Government's advertising expenditure to be allocated to community stations.
- Compared to other stations in the area Huon FM has inferior coverage from Doody's Hill.