



SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN CONROY

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
 MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER ON DIGITAL PRODUCTIVITY
 LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STANDING COMMITTEE ON
 PETITIONS 27/5/2013

The Hon John Murphy MP
 Chair
 Standing Committee on Petitions
 PO Box 6021
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

24 APR 2013

Dear Mr Murphy

Community Radio Station Petition

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2013 (reference 742/1187), regarding a submission received by the Standing Committee on Petitions from 'the people and businesses within the City of Swan region of Western Australia'. I note the petitioners seek the assistance of the House to secure a community radio service for the Midland CBD, within the Local Government Area of the City of Swan, including a variation to the Perth Radio Licence Area Plan, as necessary.

You may be interested to know the petition was referred to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) for consideration, as under the terms of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, the ACMA is the independent statutory authority responsible for the planning and allocation of all broadcasting licences. In planning the economic and efficient use of radiofrequency spectrum, the ACMA is to have regard to planning criteria, including demographics and the number of existing broadcasting services in a licence area (section 23 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*). The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* also provides for the ACMA to determine the number and type of broadcasting services to be available in particular areas of Australia.

The ACMA has advised that it has received applications for temporary community broadcasting licences (TCBL) from two groups seeking to provide temporary community broadcasting services within the City of Swan, including an application from Swan City Community Radio Inc, for a service to cater for the Midland CBD. In January 2013, the ACMA advised both aspirant groups that the 104.1 MHz frequency was suitable for use for temporary community broadcasting purposes in the Swan TCBL RA1 licence area, which encompasses the City of Swan (including Midland). Both aspirant groups have notified the ACMA that they have agreed to share the frequency, with each group broadcasting for 84 hours per week.

The ACMA has advised it is in a position to allocate TCBLs to both aspirant groups as soon as they are ready to commence providing a temporary community broadcasting service. Despite this notification, advice provided by both aspirant groups suggests that neither will be in a position to operate a temporary community broadcasting service until the second half of 2013.

It is expected that the communities in the suburb of Midland will be able to access the Swan TCBL RA1 service.

I trust this information will be of use to the Standing Committee on Petitions.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy