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# 4MBS *Classic* FM

103.7

## FAX



**Attention:** Ms Delwyn Rance  
Broadcasting Inquiry  
Productivity Commission

**Fax No:** (03) 9653 2305

**From:** Gary Thorpe, General Manager

**Re:** Submission from 4MBS Classic FM

**Date:** 11 May, 1999 **No. of Pages:** (including this page)

4MBS Classic FM is Brisbane's fine music (classical and Jazz) community FM station. We went to air in March 1979 as Brisbane's first classical FM station. Some 12 - 18 months later, the ABC's classical network, ABC Classic FM, reached Brisbane. This provided Brisbane audiences with two services from which to select.

4MBS Classic FM is limited by its licence to 7.2 kw in power but ABC Classic FM has no such limit and broadcasts at 50kw. This gives the ABC service an unfair advantage over the local community station.

The ABC comes under its own Act which enables it to use greater broadcast power.

As ABC Classic FM is the only competitor for the classical and jazz listening audience in Brisbane, it seems that the limitation on 4MBS Classic FM's broadcasting power imposed by the licence issued under the current Act, allows the ABC an unfair advantage.

Brisbane occupies a large area and has many hills. To provide good reception - especially for the classical music audience, stations require sufficient height for their aerial and enough power to enable their signal to be well received on the fringes of their service area.

It's not without good reason that ABC Classic FM's power is 50kw.

To limit the community classic FM station, 4MBS Classic FM, to a fraction of the broadcast power of the government-owned ABC Classic FM seems to be in breach of the Competition Principles Agreement.

*Gary Thorpe*

**GARY THORPE**  
General Manager

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Brisbane's classical music FM radio station