

25 April, 1999

Broadcasting Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinions to your inquiry. Whilst the majority of our members will agree with what I have to say, the views expressed here are my own.

Please consider the following as my registration of interest in your broadcasting inquiry:

ORGANISATION: Community Radio Coraki Association Incorporated

STREET & POSTAL ADDRESS: 55 Queen Elizabeth Drive, CORAKI 2471

PRINCIPAL CONTACT: Roger Wood

POSITION: Chairman

We are best described as an aspirant broadcaster and community interest group.

Coraki is on the Far North Coast of NSW, just South of Lismore.

My main motivation for this submission is so that the opinions of tiny community stations who are not members of the CBAA will not be regarded as small change. We are a tiny, very poor but successful community station.

Unfortunately the CBAA has become an elitist group of full-time licensed major stations, who have little time for the new kids on the blocks, especially the back-blocks.

Successive State and Federal Governments of both persuasions have similarly abandoned rural Australia, as have most national associations with the exception of Farmers' groups.

Your inquiry has the opportunity to ensure that broadcasting legislation, where it needs to and is able to, addresses the social and economic deprivations of rural Australia. The culture is no longer Sydney or the Bush - it's Sydney versus the Bush.

Please don't suggest future legislation which will allow the Packers, Murdochs, Laws (even though he fawns a kinship with things rural), the CBA and FARB drive the wedge deeper between Sydney & the Bush.

I would like to comment on all the issues that concerns our group, but I just don't have the time. Similarly, I won't make it to the public hearings.

However, I have read the issues paper several times and by considering the excellent values of the questions and believe that the inquiry is in good hands.

I am available by phone, fax or e-mail (rhcoraki@bigpond.com) for further comment.

I wish you well with your task.

Yours faithfully

Roger Wood