

From: Dale Parker [wowfm@yahoo.com]
Sent: 8 August 1999 19:19
To: broadcasting@pc.gov.au
Subject: BROADCASTING SUBMISSION

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

This is a submission about possible amendments to the Broadcasting services Act. It suggests

1.

That commercial radio stations not be allowed to own a narrowcast license. At present commercial broadcasters can hold an unlimited number of narrowcast licenses this has given some commercial stations a loophole to eliminate competition. A good example is the R G Capital radio network now owns 5 radio stations in the Queensland city of Toowoomba, a city of only 80,000 people, this is not fair and they are not operating in the spirit of the law or narrowcasting. I submit that commercial stations not be allowed to bid for a narrowcast license and that there be a rule of only 1 license to be owned per person/company, per market an example, if this rule applied in the city of Toowoomba, RG Capital would still be able to own there 2 commercial licenses but 3 separate local Toowoomba people/companys would be able to operate and own the cities 3 high power narrowcast licenses. The CEO of R G Capital has told me, that in future his radio network will buy every available narrowcast license that the ABA makes available as they see narrowcast stations as destabilising the commercial radio market,hence its cheaper for organisations like R G Capital to pay \$20,000 or \$30,000 dollars for a narrowcast license and to lock up the competion this is unfair on smaller groups who want to have a chance of owning and running there own stations.

2.

That after the 5 years is up, the narrowcast license is renewed to the current license holder and does not come back up for auction. I own 98.9fm Townsville and 93.9 fm Mackay, R G Capital have recently paid \$135 000 for Cairns and should I be forced to re bid for Townsville and Mackay in 5 years time I shall not be able to afford the license when it expires as it is now clear that the big commercial operators are bying up all the available narrowcast licenses.

I make these 2 submissions to the productivity commission in the hope that they will provide a better radio service in Australia.

Yours Sincerely

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