

# Communications Committee

# investigates regional radio

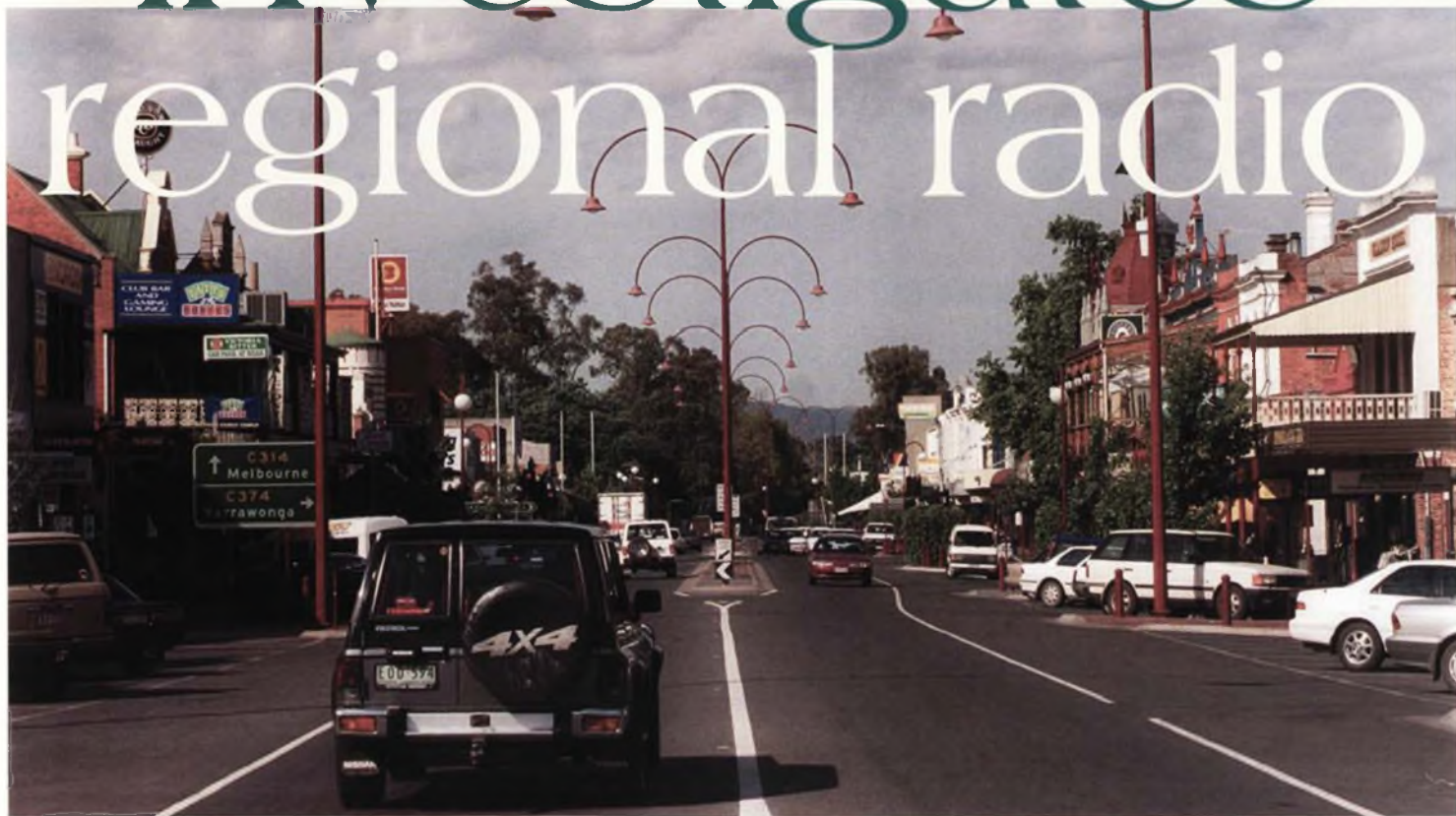


Photo: Newspix.

The adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia will come under the spotlight in a new inquiry being conducted by the House of Representatives Communications, Transport and the Arts Committee.

The Minister for Communications, Senator Richard Alston, has asked the Committee to inquire into and report on the adequacy of radio services in regional and rural Australia. The investigation will look at the extent to which there is a need for the Government to take action in relation to the quantity and the quality of radio services in regional and rural Australia, having particular regard to:

- the social benefits and influence on the general public of radio broadcasting in non-metropolitan Australia in comparison to other media sectors;
- future trends in radio broadcasting, including employment and career opportunities, in non-metropolitan Australia;
- the effect on individuals, families and small business in non-metropolitan Australia of networking of radio programming, particularly in relation to local news services, sport, community service announcements and other forms of local content; and
- the potential for new technologies such as digital radio to provide enhanced and more localised radio services in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

The House Communications Committee will examine services provided by the ABC, commercial and community radio services.

The inquiry has generated strong interest from across Australia. "Launching this inquiry has been like touching a raw nerve," said Committee Chair, Paul Neville (Member for Hinkler, Queensland). "I am not really surprised. Radio is hugely important to people in non-metropolitan areas.

"Changes in the regulatory environment and developments in technology have led to substantial changes in the ownership of radio. One of the main developments has been the growth of commercial radio networks. At the heart of this inquiry is how these developments are affecting program content and quality in non-metropolitan Australia."

While submissions to the inquiry were due by the end of October,

those people who still wish to make

comments should write to:

The Committee Secretary  
House Communications Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

### For more information

Visit: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta)  
Call: (02) 6277 4601  
Email: [janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au)  
Fax: (02) 6277 2067

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