22nd September 2008

Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
New South Wales 1230

Dear Sir,

We wish to endorse the stand taken by the Community Radio Association of Australia (CBAA) in relation to the proposal by ACMA to move several community radio stations to lower powered frequencies.

Like the CBAA, we are concerned that locally generated services are being asked to make way for a nationally networked service; if this happens once, then the precedent is set and all community stations could be in jeopardy. Furthermore, changing to a lower frequency would have a huge impact and compensation would need be considered.

We understand that the CBAA has drawn to your attention that a full review of existing and proposed services should be undertaken, and that if a community radio station is required to change frequency following that review, they must be granted a signal strength that will enable them to broadcast clearly to their full community and that compensation is paid.

We endorse this and urge ACMA to listen to what the community radio sector is telling them, and that you take an ethical approach to what is fair and beneficial to all concerned.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Skelly
Secretary