27/10/2005

Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 34
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Re: Draft Variation to Licence Area Plan for Lithgow Radio – No 1 of 2005

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft proposal for 2ICE FM to establish a relay transmitter at Wentworth Falls, which is of interest and concern to us.

2BLU FM was licenced in 1993 to provide a community radio service to the upper- and mid-Blue Mountains from Blackheath to Woodford. Our transmitter is at the Blue Mountains City Council Headquarters Building in Katoomba.

We believe that 2BLU FM should be granted the same transmitting conditions to cover the same area as 2ICE FM. We come under constant criticism from the local community for not covering more of the Blue Mountains local government area. Indeed, it is the main criticism we receive from our community. A transmission site at Wentworth Falls with the same antenna specifications as those proposed for 2ICE FM would afford us coverage of a greater section of the Blue Mountains, at least to Springwood/Winmalee/ Faulconbridge.

Since the granting of this variation to the LAP would make it possible for 2ICE to cover the area we applied for five years ago without success, we would urge you to make it a condition of ACMA approval that 2ICE be required as a condition to provide 2BLU FM with access this antenna and transmitter facility. If a relay transmitter for a Lithgow station is to be approved, there must be some community benefit for the Blue Mountains.

One reason given for refusal when we applied in 1999 to establish a transmitter site at Wentworth Falls, was the possibility of spill across the Sydney metropolitan area. Another reason was the claim that Katoomba has more in common with Lithgow than it has with Springwood. Just how this was established we do not know but the attached comparison of Katoomba to Springwood and Lithgow we think will speak for itself. We would anticipate that the number of presenters from the Springwood area would double immediately if we were able to broadcast there. We are in a position to establish a studio in Springwood within a reasonable time of expanding our coverage.
Attached are some letters of support as follows:

Bob Debus, MP for the Blue Mountains
Jim Angel, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council
Insp. Eric Berry, NSW Rural Fire Service
Noel Hiffeman, Mountains Youth Services Team
Laura Wagy, student, Springwood High School
Dave Younan, Royal Hotel, Springwood (key music venue in lower mountains)

We have the support of the member for Macquarie, Kerry Bartlett, but were unable to get a letter of support in time for this submission.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

KEN QUINNELL
President
26 October 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am very happy to offer my support to BLU FM in their endeavour to increase the range of the station’s signal.

Since its inception BLU FM has been restricted by the very nature of the Mountains and the locations of the settled areas.

In the series of residential areas that make up the Blue Mountains, there is no simple central position that would enable transmission to even the majority of Blue Mountains residents.

Many of the towns and villages are in complete or partial transmission “shadow”.

Any proposal that will improve the transmission and enable more people to receive the signal would be most welcome.

Bob Debus
Member for Blue Mountains
19 October 2005

Mr. Ken Quinell
2 BLU FM
P.O. Box 64
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Our Local Radio Station 2 BLU FM is in the process of making a submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority to increase the Radio’s transmission into the Lower Blue Mountains.

I am happy to provide this letter in support of their submission.

2 BLU FM is a great active Community Radio Station and those of us who reside in the Upper Mountains are most privileged to have this Station to listen to. The music is live, the programmes are interesting and informative. They also broadcast community issues, cultural events, etc. and there are a number of special segments as well which everyone enjoys. The Station broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It would be wonderful if the community of the Lower Blue Mountains could also enjoy listening to Radio Station 2 BLU FM but, unfortunately, they are disadvantaged because of the inability to receive transmissions properly in that area. Therefore it would be of great advantage to the people in the Lower Blue Mountains if they could receive clear transmissions and to do this, transmissions would need to be increased.

I therefore trust the Australian Communications and Media Authority will consider increasing our Local Radio Station’s transmission to serve the community of the Lower Blue Mountains which will be of benefit to them and to the people of the City of Blue Mountains.

I trust that this submission is successful and I wholeheartedly support Radio Station 2 BLU FM in its endeavours.

[Signature]

MM ANGEL
Mayor.
The Management Committee
Blue Mountains Community Radio 89.1
Gang Gang St, Katoomba NSW 2780

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Rural Fire Service I would like to take this opportunity to thank BLU-FM for its valuable support. As the RFS takes steps towards increasing its audience in the delivery of its Community Education programmes, we are proud to be able to work so closely with BLU-FM.

I am similarly delighted to hear that BLU-FM has an opportunity to increase its broadcast footprint in the Blue Mountains. An increase in the footprint, and the transmission strength into that footprint, would be a huge boost to the community of the Blue Mountains. Being able to reach a larger audience has great benefit, not only in the area of prevention but also during operational periods.

We strongly support this proposed extension to the valuable service of BLU-FM and I have no doubt it will similarly prove to be a major support to the relationship between the Rural Fire Service and BLU-FM and our communication strategies during bushfire and other emergencies.

Regards,

Inspector Eric J Berry JP
Deputy Fire Control Officer – Community Safety
Blue Mountains District
NSW Rural Fire Service

27 October 2005
22 October 2005

To Whom it May Concern

The Mountains Youth Service Team would like to offer its support to BLU FM's submission to increase it broadcast coverage of the Blue Mountains.

We believe that community radio is a vital part of our community. Currently the lower mountains miss out on the programs run by BLUFM.

Extending the coverage of BLU FM's broadcast to cover the lower mountains would enable our clients (the lower mountains youth) the opportunity to participate in community radio. This would improve self-esteem and help develop a sense of community in our young people.

Yours Sincerely

Noel Hffbner
C/o Chair Mountains Youth Services Team.
To whom it may concern,

My name is Laura Nagy, and I host the "Cool Schools" Blu FM Radio programme with three of my peers. We are all senior students from Springwood High School who are incredibly passionate about our programme. We are also deeply grateful about being given such a tremendous opportunity to widen our knowledge and nurture our talents but are disappointed that Blu FM doesn’t reach Springwood, the home of our school and many of our potential listeners. We feel that it would benefit not only our programme and our own school if Blu FM reached Springwood, but also youths from other lower income schools who are unable to listen to and participate in the excellent opportunities Blu FM provides for them.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

Laura Nagy
Ph: 0433 885 595
Ken Quinnell,
BLU FM 89.1,
PO Box 64,
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

20 October, 2005

Dear Ken,

We are writing in support of your submission to the Australian Communication and Media Authority to extend the coverage of BLU FM to Springwood and other parts of the lower mountains.

This expanded coverage appears to be essential. If the application from 2ICE FM to establish a relay station for its Lithgow commercial service is to be approved, then clearly a community broadcasting station such as BLU FM should be given the same opportunity and coverage.

There is no doubt that the communities of Springwood, Winmalee, Faulconbridge and environs are disadvantaged in not being able to receive BLU FM’s transmission signal properly. If this proposal means we are going to be able to receive your station in our area, then it has our full backing.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID YOUNAN
Licensee / manager
Ken Quinell  
President, BLU FM

SUBJECT ACMA SUBMISSION RE 2ICE FM

I am writing on behalf of the Blue Mountains Community Interagency to support community radio station BLU FM’s application for a LAP variation to establish a translator transmitter/antenna at Wentworth Falls and to substantially increase the antenna height.

The Blue Mountains Community Interagency is made up of over 70 services and organisations in the Blue Mountains. These organisations include Neighbourhood Centres, Family Support services, Community Development projects, Youth services, Disability services, Migrant services, Children’s and Child Protection services, Community Housing and staff from Council, Health Services, and Employment services. We are linked with thousands of people in the Blue Mountains community. We see BLU FM as a valuable resource for the Mountains!

On behalf of those people and in their interests, we would like to strongly support your application to increase resources to enable your broadcasts to reach a greater number of Blue Mountains residents.

BLU FM is a significant resource for community agencies. Community Information Bulletins are invaluable in publicising free a wide range of events that are organised by local people. Program interviews promote services to communities that need them. Interviews of local people about issues of concern enable issues to be discussed and strategies to be developed. Many local residents, particularly young people, learn and practice broadcasting skills through the programming opportunities.

We commend your efforts and the long-term work that BLU FM volunteers have done for our community.

As you know, currently, it is predominantly only people in the Upper Blue Mountains that are able to access the benefits of BLU FM.

We wholeheartedly encourage BLU FM’s application for wider coverage to enable Lower Mountains residents and services to also partake in the community capacity building that community radio brings to our community.

Yours faithfully

Mary Waterford
Mountains Community Resource Network
On behalf of Blue Mountains Community Interagency.   October 25th, 2005

Blue Mountains Community Interagency is a regular Forum attended by representatives from Neighbourhood Centres, Family Support services, Community Development projects, Youth services, Disability services, Migrant services, Children’s and Child Protection services, Community Housing and staff from Blue Mountains City Council, Wentworth Area Health Services, Centrelink and Employment services. It is convened by the Mountains Community Resource Network.
**BLU FM 89.1**

A comparison of Katoomba with Springwood and Lithgow

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