



2 May 2014

Community radio at risk under audit cuts

Community radio stations across the country could be forced off air if the Commission of Audit recommendation to scrap funding for the Community Broadcasting Program is accepted by the Government.

Community Broadcasting Association of Australia President Adrian Basso said the recommendation, if adopted, would put stations right across the country at serious risk.

“The recommendation from the Commission of Audit shows a complete lack of understanding of the community broadcasting sector and the significant contribution it makes to media diversity in the country,” Mr Basso said.

“For local communities, community broadcasting is vital. It plays a crucial role in providing a voice for communities that aren’t adequately serviced by other broadcasting sectors including Indigenous Australians, ethnic communities, the print and vision impaired, young people and seniors.

“We’re hopeful that the Federal Government will see this recommendation for what it is – a sure fire way to undo the vital work community broadcasting has done to promote the identities of local communities and the invaluable contribution it makes to social inclusion.

“If the Government were to adopt this recommendation it would cripple the community broadcasting sector’s operations and development and leave millions of Australians without access to the media content they rely on.

“We are hopeful that the Federal Government will recognise the vital importance of keeping our community radio stations on the air.

“The community broadcasting sector is a smart investment: for every dollar the government puts in, the social outcome is huge.”

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