

**0.0 Administrator Minute - Emergency Radio (Ref: C17115375);Author:
Tegart/Overall**

Minute

Recommendation

That Council write to the Federal Member for Eden Monaro to address the issue of poor radio coverage, seeking legislative amendment to permit ABC666 emergency broadcast into NSW repeaters, and seek grants for the installation of suitable infrastructure

10 **Background**

Following the 2013 Sandy Hills fire, the former Palerang Council was approached by residents to address the issue of poor radio coverage in sections of the local government area.

Due to the hilly terrain, there are a number of areas with poor reception but the issue is particularly noticeable around Captains Flat and Braidwood, due to relatively larger numbers of people living in those areas. There are also issues with mobile phone service, so streaming services cannot be utilised.

20 At the emergency debrief following the Sandy Hills fires, Council made representations to the ABC in regards to the emergency broadcasting. There are some barriers in regards to legislation about re-broadcasting across the state/territory line. ABC Canberra is broadcast from the ACT. It is informally received across the border and is used as the local emergency station, but the former Palerang Council was advised that there was a legislative problem with retransmitting the signal from the ACT. There is also a suggestion that the Batemans Bay signal could be transmitted to the Braidwood area, which would be permissible but needs to be further investigated regarding the suitability for Braidwood residents.

At the time, Palerang Council made representations to the former Federal Member for Eden Monaro, however the legislative barriers have not been overcome.

The matter has been raised again with a Council following the Currandooley and Carwoola fires during the 2016-17 summer.

30 To bring this matter to the forefront and work towards a resolution, I will write to the current Federal Member for Eden Monaro, Dr Mike Kelly and also discuss with him at future scheduled meetings.

Pending the outcome of these discussions, Council may consider applying for grant funding for the installation of suitable infrastructure.

Attachments

Nil