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Consultation submission: Proposal to vary the Perth and Remote Western Australia radio licence area plans

Subject: Omission of radio reading service 6RPH

The CBAA and Vision Australia, the licensee of the Perth radio reading service 6RPH, expressed serious concern at 6RPH being omitted from listing as an existing AM service in the options paper regarding Perth radio planning circulated by the ACMA in April 2021.

The outcomes statement from that paper, published by the ACMA in September 2022, subsequently acknowledged 6RPH as providing a valuable service for the local blind, low-vision and print-disabled communities, and declared that as the number of available FM channels in Perth was constrained to 5, that 6RPH would be left on AM.

Being left on AM incurs significant costs for 6RPH. Moreover, being left on AM once the ABC radio audience is no longer on AM also isolates and presents challenges for 6RPH.

The services of 6RPH are already available in Perth on DAB+ digital radio.

At this stage, the CBAA and the licensee of 6RPH, Vision Australia, both agree that the converting to FM transmission, and the extra cost of FM transmission would serve no purpose.

Submitted on behalf of Vision Australia / 6RPH by:

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