



Proposal to revise the temporary community broadcasting license guidelines for radio



Consultation paper

Response from First Nations Media
Australia

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[Contact Details](#)

Claire Stuchbery

Interim CEO

Level 2/70 Elder Street, Alice Springs NT 0870

PO Box 2731. Alice Springs NT 0871

Ph: 08 8952 6465

E: ceo@firstnationsmedia.org.au

W: www.firstnationsmedia.org.au

This submission is made by First Nations Media Australia. Some members may make individual submissions in which case the First Nations Media Australia submission should not be taken to displace those submissions.



[First Nations Media Australia](#) (FNMA) is the peak body for the First Nations media and communications industry. The First Nations radio sector comprises 28 urban and regional radio services, 8 remote media organisations servicing 138 remote communities, collectively reaching nearly 50% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population each week. Of the 94 temporary community radio licenses current in March 2021, 60 are licensed to service Indigenous communities of interest and 46 are operated by current FNMA members (51%).

FNMA appreciates the ACMA's commitment to ongoing consultation and the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revisions to the temporary community broadcasting license guidelines.

As reported to the ACMA in previous written submissions and verbal consultation processes, FNMA seeks amendments to the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 to establish an Indigenous license-type, rather than being a subset of the community broadcasting license category. FNMA also seeks amendments to the Act to provide opportunity for radio licensees operating temporary licensed services for long periods of time to be allocated 5-year community broadcasting licenses, or at least temporary community broadcast licenses (TCBL) that extend beyond a 12-month period. FNMA understands these changes require legislative reform and lie beyond the scope of the ACMA. In this context, we are pleased to report that FNMA has no substantive objection to the proposed amendments to the TCBL guidelines.

FNMA acknowledges the ACMA's commitment to clarity and transparency in guiding applicants on what will or will not be considered in the license application process. We appreciate the ACMA's attempts to improve the readability of the guidelines and reduce repetition.

FNMA encourages the ACMA to continue planning LAP areas so that TCBLs previously operating as BRACS licenses may apply for community radio licenses. Particularly in remote areas where there is little competition for spectrum, this would reduce administrative processes for both licensees and the ACMA.

