

Greetings Radio Spectrum Management Review Panel,

Our submission is mostly with regard to the FM broadcasting frequencies and all associated radio links required to make it work.

The Woodville Radio Society and our fellow Radio Stations in Dannevirke and Eketahuna wish to submit the following:

That a sub group of frequencies fees needs to be set up for non for profit radio frequencies issued to all groups that are registered Incorporated Societies or Clubs for want of a better word. There are a number of groups like ours, providing Community Radio Services to our small towns that are being ignored by the Main stream commercial broadcasters. Our stations provide contact back into our communities on events and activities that are happening locally. They are also providing a training ground for young people to get experience to get employment into the Commercial Radio environment.

The recent Frequency auction saw the station in Dannevirke loose its frequency to Media Works for an Auction total of \$160400.00. For a totally volunteer owned and operated FM radio station this is an impossible amount of money to raise when the total operating Budget is just over \$10,000.00.per year. In the real world of commercial business this sum of money is huge and while possible to raise by loan, the cost of pay back plus the running costs is still a hard ask to justify.

Volunteers stations have staff who work for free and rely on raffles and sponsorship to raise money to pay the overheads. Our station has been doing this for 17 years. One of the biggest amounts is the Rights to broadcast and the annual license fee and payments for the performing rights to music, then all the usual fees like rent power telephone and internet. "Simple" we have been told "use the Guard Band Frequencies, they are free to use". That is extremely difficult due to the technical issues caused by the 22 other high power FM stations Broadcast stations. They are transmitting from one Commercial radio transmitter site that overshadows all of our towns that vary in EIRP from 500watts to 10,000watts. These transmitters cause de-sensing of the cheap FM radio Receivers that our listeners are trying to listen to our stations on. Result is "we can't receive you" and they are often right.

Fees are always on the increase. We challenge RFS to do some serious pruning and surprise the whole industry by reducing the Fees for all services or at least keeping status quo. We also challenge this Government to let you get on with your business and stop making unreasonable demands on RFS to turn a profit. We are very anti Government wasting money on Panda Bears and other money handouts overseas. Increasing the fees is a negative effect to making a viable and profitable business. Increasing Usage and keeping overheads down allows for targets to be met. Somethings that our country does are services and not businesses. Your organisation could be first to bring us back to the real world.

Regards Eric Bodell  
Station Manager Radio Woodville