

**INQUIRY INTO RESPONSE TO MAJOR FLOODING
ACROSS NEW SOUTH WALES IN 2022**

Organisation: BayFM Community Radio

Date Received: 8 July 2022

In terms of additional information, while our original submission was top line, we noted towards the end of our appearance that the Committee was seeking more guidance around the bottom line ie what resources and investment would be needed to maintain a viable service. With that in mind, the additional points we would include are:

1. Preparation and response to emergency events will continue to be handled on a **Community-First** basis. This will be the case even if a robust fourth emergency service/disaster response capability is created through Resilience NSW.
2. **Community radio** is an essential component of a Community-first response. It is hyper-local with valuable, actionable information. It reaches places that more broadscale media, such as the ABC, do not. It has also been shown to operate when other media fail, including mobile phones and internet.
3. **BayFM community radio** is a flagship station with wide reach and a loyal, interactive audience. During the floods we continued to operate when other community radio stations were flooded out, helping to provide their audiences with information as well as our own.
4. BayFM community radio is under-funded, under-resourced, short staffed and **in need of financial support** to build resilience. It relies on unpaid volunteers and the generosity of the local community, which is simply not enough to guarantee our ongoing existence. In the way other community-first organisations such as SES and Surf Lifesaving are at least in part government funded, the same needs to be the case for community radio, given the vital and proven service it provides.
5. The estimated cost to update our broadcast equipment and transmission infrastructure to become secure for the next 10 years is a one-off cost of \$300k. We were seeking to raise \$250k from the local community. Given the financial hardship created by the floods and other factors, we are unlikely to achieve this. **We request a one-off government investment of \$150k** (ie 50%) to ensure our equipment is reliable and stable.
6. Our annual running costs are \$450k and these are cut to the bone. This does not include paying people to work all hours during emergencies - we can ask only so much of our volunteers. Including these additional costs, the true cost would be around \$600k. **We request ongoing government support of \$300kpa** (ie 50%) to ensure a capability to broadcast emergency messages at very short notice on a 24/7 basis is maintained.

We hope this gives you more guidance around the bottom line of the costs associated with providing this ongoing and vital service.