

### The Compliance Standard

A key option for the Compliance Standard is to remove this regulation altogether, as it has achieved its purpose and now places unnecessary administrative and financial burdens on industry.

Many industry responses to the issues paper in February 2010 highlighted that a compliance culture had grown across industry and that this culture could be maintained irrespective of regulation by the ACMA.

### Background to the review

Commercial radio regulation is mostly achieved by industry codes of practice; however, following the *Commercial Radio Inquiry 2000*, three standards were introduced to provide more appropriate community safeguards.

Unlike codes of practice, these program standards operate as a licence condition on all commercial radio broadcasting licences.

The ACMA has undertaken a comprehensive program of research in order to establish an evidence base for its review. In February 2010, it released an issues paper and related research reports for comment. Interested parties were invited to consider the standards, taking account of the interests of commercial radio listeners, as well as industry concerns about a range of operational issues.

The ACMA also held a public forum and a series of roundtables with a range of experts from industry and the community from February to April 2010. The ACMA considered the comments it received on the issues paper and, on the basis of those comments and the research, it drafted the current options paper. ☎

### Submissions

Comments from the radio industry and the community on the options paper are encouraged, specifically the relative costs and benefits of each option.

Submissions to the paper close on **Friday 13 May 2011**.

Following feedback on the options paper, if the ACMA decides that regulatory change is necessary, it will release draft standards for public comment. The ACMA will also seek public comment if it decides to revoke one or more of the existing standards.

Further information, including a copy of the options paper, is available at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to For the public: Content & advertising > Broadcasting: Broadcasting content regulation > Radio content regulation > Commercial radio standards > Review of commercial radio standards).

## Cairns radio station breaches code

The ACMA has found that community radio broadcaster 4CCR Cairns has breached the Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice 2008 by not providing a community member with copies of policy and procedure documents, and not adequately responding to his or her request.

In response to the finding, 4CCR is redeveloping its policies and procedures so documents are freely available to all members of the community.

The licensee is also implementing training packages to ensure its members are aware of their responsibilities under the codes. This process is being undertaken in conjunction with a range of agreed measures implemented in December 2009 when 4CCR's licence was renewed.

The ACMA considers that 4CCR is demonstrating a commitment to meeting its obligations under the codes and that the current management committee is working to address these operational issues.

While the ACMA will take no further action at this time, it will continue to monitor 4CCR's adoption of the agreed measures.

Cairns Community Broadcasters Inc. (4CCR) holds a long-term community broadcasting licence to provide a radio service in the Cairns RA2 licence area in Queensland. ☎

A copy of the investigation report is available on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to About ACMA: Publications & research > Publications > Broadcasting publications > Broadcasting investigations reports > Radio operations investigations > Radio operations – QLD community radio investigations).

More information on community broadcasting is also available on the ACMA website (go to For the public: Consumer & community advice > Broadcasting: Community broadcasting > Complaints and investigations).