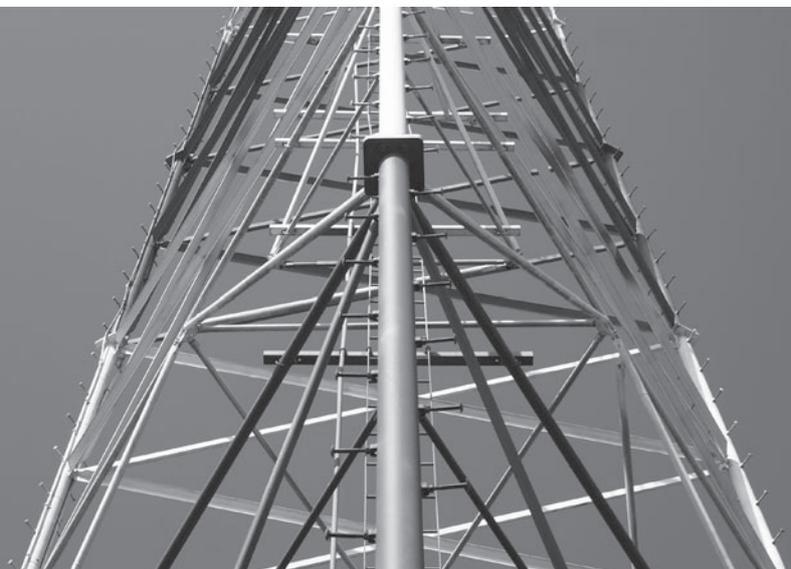


Digital Radio Broadcasts

How could they affect you?



Current plans for Digital Radio Broadcasting could have serious ramifications for Hamersley and Balga residents should they be adopted.

It is good that Australia is improving our radio systems as the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) (formerly the Australian Communications Authority) plan to introduce Digital Radio. It has been widely recommended to use Digital Radio Eureka 147 in cities and Digital Radio Mondial in country areas. The ACMA is currently proposing that Digital Radio Mondial be transmitted to the regional areas from the Hamersley site.

What does this mean for you?

This technology will most likely be transmitted from the Hamersley Tower

and people will get an audible buzz on their telephones and interference on ABC television. This will also eliminate any chance of removal of the tower in the foreseeable future.

Is there another option?

Yes. The other technology (Eureka 147) has less interference problems and is the preferred standard in Europe and Canada. This technology would most likely also be broadcast from the existing TV/FM radio tower in the hills where there are no interference problems. Digital Radio Mondial can still be used for regional areas but be transmitted from a regional location or locations (such as Wagin) where there are no near neighbours to experience severe interference problems.

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New Name - Same Aim

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Digital Radio Broadcasts

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However, even if this action is taken, the tower will still be required to transmit it's existing signals for at least 20 years until the federal government decides Digital Radio technology has been adopted by the public (similar to the switch off of the analogue mobile phone networks).

For more information about the Digital Radio Broadcasting proposals, who is submitting comments on the proposals and the problems that Digital Radio Mondial may cause, see our website at:

www.right.net.au, email us at:
info@right.net.au or write to us:
PO Box 2496, Warwick, WA, 6024.

The Hamersley Reference Group has now changed its name to be Radio Interference Group — Hamersley Tower (RIGHT).

In 2000, Jann McFarlane (Former Federal Member for Stirling) called the first meeting regarding this problem and the working group continue to work on this problem.

The group consists of local residents affected by the tower and it's interference. People with a combined experience of 40 years working in radio and television broadcasting (at the ABC), 25 years at Telstra and City of Stirling councillors are also involved with the group.

Using the talents and skills of our local community, RIGHT is still committed to the aim of removal of the interference. We are also monitoring for new causes of interference being proposed for the Hamersley Transmitter site including Digital Radio Broadcasting and a new community broadcaster - both explained in more detail in this issue of Tower Talk.



New Broadcaster for Site

A new community radio station may start transmitting from Hamersley

An application is currently being reviewed that will see another transmitter added to the Hamersley site. This new community broadcaster could add to our current interference headaches.

The Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) is reviewing the application to place another community broadcaster on the Hamersley Tower site. ACMA decide on what frequency (such as 96.1MHz and 720kHz) any new radio station will transmit.

Their original proposed frequency would have resulted in video recorders being rendered useless.

This proposed frequency has since been changed (without any explanation, fanfare or even announcement), but still represents another source of interference and transmissions.

The adding of a new broadcaster to the site also reduces the possibility of removal of the site as more broadcasters will depend on the site to transmit AM signals.

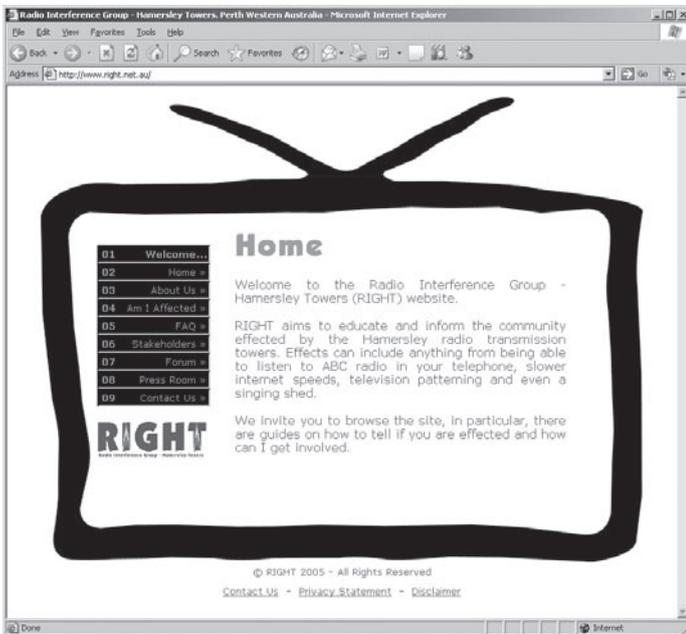


Website Launched

RIGHT has launched a new website at www.right.net.au

The site is still in the process of being built but will include a survey, information about the problems, how to identify if you are affected, and the most recent activities of the committee.

You can also register to receive issues of Tower Talk by email, and offer your assistance to remove the interference problems we all face.



Did You Know?

During the mid 1990's one of the Hamersley transmitters (Radio National) was doubled in power, and another transmitter (Parliamentary News Network) was added.

This news alone may shock some readers. However, through documents obtained from the Australian Communications Media Authority, the lack of complaints of interference from this increase is now being used as weight for arguments to add more transmission equipment to the Hamersley Site.

How could local residents have complained about interference when a) there was already interference and b) there was no public education program about the addition of another transmitter and doubling of power of another.

Health Concerns Allayed

Can the Hamersley Tower give you cancer? Only if you are 210 metres tall.

RIGHT has contacted the Western Australian Health Department to find out if there has been any increase in incidents

To quote a submission to ACMA by NTL the operator of the Hamersley site.

"The ABA should be aware that the Radio National transmission has been operating at 20kW since the mid-1990's when the former NTA applied to have the power of the service increased by 3dB." This was a doubling of power.

The submission continues, "The ABA has sought comments on any EME (*interference*) issues that might arise from the introduction of additional transmissions at Hamersley. As far as ntl is aware, the introduction of 6PB at 10kW and the power increase of 6RN from 10kW to 20kW has not resulted in any adverse comments from the public."

The above submission relates to future planning of radio transmitters around Perth.

of cancer among the people who live within the area affected by the tower. There is no evidence, based on recorded cancer cases between 1982 and 2002, to support this. There were no greater levels of cancer cases within the tower area compared with the general population.