



Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

2024 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia was held as a hybrid meeting on Friday, 18 October 2024, commencing at 4:00 pm (AEST).

1 Meeting Opening

The CBAA President, Jacquie Riddell declared the meeting open at 4.10pm and noted a quorum was present.

The President acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Australia, including the Yugambah people whose Country lies within the City of Gold Coast area and those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have moved to the Gold Coast from other regions around Australia. The President paid her respects to Elders past and present.

2 Attendance & Apologies

A complete listing of attendance, proxies and apologies is attached as attachment A.

3 Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

It was noted that copies of the previous AGM minutes were distributed with the notice for meeting and that in accordance with Corporations Law, the Minutes of the 2023 AGM were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Board and signed by the President, Jacquie Riddell on 10 February 2024.

4 Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The President noted that the Annual Review and the Audited Financial Report were distributed to members and published on the CBAA website on the 16th of October 2024.

The President, Jacquie Riddell addressed the AGM (see attachment B for transcript) followed by the Chief Executive Officer, Jon Bisset (see attachment C for transcript) and by the Chair, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, Quinn Glasson (see attachment D for transcript).

5 General Questions for the Board and Management

The President invited questions from members. The questions and answers, including those received in advance of the meeting, are attached (see attachment E).

6 Announcement of Election results

The President announced the results of the elections.

The President announced that:

- Hannah Rogers is re-elected as CBAA Member-Elected Director for a term ending at the end of the 2026 CBAA AGM.
- Quinn Glasson is re-elected as CBAA Member-Elected Director for a term ending at the end of the 2026 CBAA AGM.
- Peter Rohweder is re-elected as CBAA Member-Elected Director for a term ending at the end of the 2026 CBAA AGM.
- Catherine (Cat) Pazvakavambwa is elected as a CBAA Member-Elected Director for a term ending at the end of the 2026 CBAA AGM.

The President, Jacquie Riddell thanked all candidates for standing for election.

7 Announcement of the outcome of the motion to remove Garcia Group Advisors as the Association's current auditor as of 18 October 2024.

The President announced that:

- It is hereby agreed by ordinary resolution that the company remove Garcia Group Advisors as its current auditor as of 18 October 2024.
- It is hereby agreed by special resolution that the company appoints Crowe Audit Australia as auditor for the year ended 30 June 2025 as of 18 October 2024.

The President thanked the Garcia Group for their work and acknowledged their commitment to deliver professional service to the CBAA.

8 Close Meeting

The President acknowledged nominees for the 2024 election and congratulated Hannah Rogers, Quinn Glasson, and Peter Rohweder on their re-appointment to the CBAA Board.

The President congratulated Catherine Pazvakavambwa on her appointment and welcomed her to the CBAA Board.

The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, Quinn, Chair; Louisa and Peter, were thanked for their valuable work and additional time spent as members of this important Committee.

The President thanked Sewar Mitanis for her valuable input on the CBAA Board over the last two years.

The President thanked Megan Williams in their role as Women and Gender Diverse People's Representative on the CBAA Board and acknowledged their advancing the thinking of the Board.

The President thanked Laura Bacon in her role as an Observer on the CBAA Board and for sharing her expertise during 2024.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and as there was no further business declared the meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record as authorised by the CBAA Board of Directors.



11 December 2024

Jacquie Riddell, President

Date

Attachment A- Attendance List

Attendees

Abdul Ghannoum (Muslim Community Radio)	Jenny Anderson (1WAY FM)
Amanda Gordon (Wild Horse FM)	Jenny Ellenbroek (Paradise FM 101.9)
Andsley Dennis (Alive905)	Jeremy Graham (2RRR - Your Local Sound)
Andy Colvin (2BOB RADIO)	Jim Jacob (City Park Radio)
Ange Kent (BAY FM 99.9)	Kevin Dodd (Casino's Own Wireless Association)
Ann Morris (3WAY FM)	Kristen Paterson (PBS)
Barrie Keenahan (VOX FM)	Leonie McGregor (CROW FM)
Barry Melville (Radio 2RPH)	Luise Pearson-Bernoeth (Nambucca Valley Radio)
Ben Daniel (Voice FM)	Michael Zylberman (3ZZZ)
Benjamin Erin (8CCC)	Mona Omar (2MBS Fine Music Sydney)
Brian Shearston (Coast FM)	Nat Grant (3MDR)
Chris Deacon (Artsound FM 92.7)	Neil Turner (PAKAM Radio Network)
Chris Wordsworth (Sunshine FM)	Nia McMartin (Casey Radio)
Colin Balewski (4CRB)	Peter Weeks (UGFM - Radio Murrindindi)
Conrad Browne (Vision Australia Radio)	Peter Rohweder (4MBS Classic FM)
Corey Stephen (Edge Radio 99.3 FM)	Phillip Randall (Hope 103.2; Juice 107.3)
Craig Wright (Plenty Valley FM 88.6)	Queenie Pelesa (4EB FM 98.1)
Daren Richardson (2RDJ FM)	Quinn Glasson (Curtin FM 100.1)
Dave Houchin (Triple R (3RRR))	Rachel Kirby (3CR)
David Day (3GGR)	Rebecca Wotzko (2MCE)
David Marshall (Harvey Community Radio 96.5fm)	Ruby Smith (SYN Media)
David Turrell (Life FM)	Santhosh Nagaiah (CMS Radio FM 91.1)
Dennis Gambrellis (96.5 InnerFM)	Sarah Warry (Coast FM 96.3)
Diane Hamilton (Radio 4YOU)	Shane Dunlop (Channel 31)
Emmanuel Monteiro (Radio Skid Row)	Sibylle Reisch (Noosa FM 101.3)
Flo Lees (PAW Radio)	Simon Mirauda (RTR FM)
Gavin Brett (Pulse 94.1; Wagga's Life FM; Life FM Bathurst; Dubbo 94.3; 1035FM Orange)	Stephen O'Doherty (96five Family Radio)
Heather Farrell (Triple H 96.5 FM)	Sue Agnew (3HCR - High Country Radio)
Indigo Wood (2OCB)	Tangiora Hinaki (Ngaarda Media)
Jack McDonnell (4ZZZ)	Tania Gillies (4RFM)
Jason Welsh (OneFM 98.5)	Tim Borgas (Radio Adelaide)
Jeff Macnish (Bunbury 103.7)	Tony Smythe (89.7 Eastside Radio)
	Yvette Ho (Radio 1RPH)

Non-Voting Attendees

Alex Nagl	Jurgen Schaub
Andrew Morris	Kerry Nelson
Ashleigh Coleman	Laura Bacon
Brian Driscoll	Lilith Hosken
Cameron Paine	Liz Freestone
Catherine Pazvakavambwa	Louisa Graham

Chris Ball
Christine Parnell
Damian Roache
Declan Kelly
Diana Burnett
Dino Mancini
Ethan Lonsdale
Gman Lyons
Hannah Rogers
Ian Hasleby
Jacquie Riddell
Jerome Fink
Jessica Tapp
Jo Curtin
John Maizels
Jon Bisset
Juan Paolo Legaspi
Julie Jordan
Juliet Fox

Lucas Hodge
Megan Williams
Mia Armitage
Michael Zewdie
Nathan Brown
Pat Silcox
Paul Strickland
Phil Grey
Robyn Hyland
Roger Hagelaar
Rowena Irvine
Sewar Mitanis
Simon Dowdie
Susan Gledhill
Susanne Keong
Tim Kling
Vicki Riley
Nenita Weekes

Proxies

Dennis Gambrellis (96.5 InnerFM)
Gavin Brett (Darwin's 97 Seven; Rhema FM 89.7)
Jeremy Graham (2RRR)
Beth Baillie (PBA-FM)
Peter Rohweder (4MBS Classic FM)
Quinn Glasson (Sonshine (98.5FM)
Michael Zylberman (3ZZZ)
Santhosh Nagaiah (CMS Radio FM 91.1)

The following proxies were allocated to the Chair:

Chris Corcoran (Reading Radio QLD)	David Walshaw (5THE FM)
Lina Miller (Sounds of Macarthur)	Matt Christie (2HAY FM 92.1)
Jodie Bell (Radio Goolarri)	Clayton Bjelan (89.9 TheLight)
Jay Reynolds (The Local One 95.1 FM)	Samual Harrison (106.7 Phoenix FM Bendigo)
Craig Cracknell (Hobart FM 96.1)	Darren Pike (Fresh 92.7)
Julie Bright (Great Southern FM)	Meredith Waters (103.9HopeFM)
Nigel Green (Print Radio Tasmania)	Julie-Anne Munns (Connect FM 100.9)
Matthew Boyd (Switch Brisbane)	Tee Johnson (3RIM)

Apologies

Brian Tyedin
Chris Corcoran
Clayton Bjelan
Craig Cracknell
Damien Fisher
Darren Pike
David Walshaw
Gary Thorpe
George Salloum
James Ardill
Jay Reynolds
Jodie Bell
Johan Bruwer
Julie Bright
Julie-Anne Munns
Luke Johnston
Mark Ribbons

Lauren Hillman
Lina Miller
Matt Christie
Matt Sivyer
Matthew Boyd
Meredith Waters
Nathan Butler
Nick Brown
Nigel Green
Pattie Todorovic
Phil Galvin
Richard Campbell
Sahana Sehgal
Samual Harrison
Tee Johnson
Wayne Scott

Attachment B – President Jacquie Riddell Speech

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Yugambah people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

Imagine a sector where 90% of radio and TV stations belong to their industry association! That is a strong and successful sector, and that is the CBAA. This shows our amazing collaboration – we are stronger together – and the value you get from your peak body.

We are proud to have welcomed four new members, including Umeewarra Aboriginal Media from beautiful Port Augusta, and Tjuma Pulka Media from the red dirt of Kalgoorlie, expanding our community of First Nations broadcasters.

The return of community television stations C31 and C44 reflects our advocacy work and our ongoing fight for the future of community TV. And congratulations to C31 who recently celebrated 30 years on air. Our colleagues in community television are a resilient and tenacious bunch, having been fighting for their survival on and off the whole time. Go you good things! We are all here in support.

A key element of governance is listening to and understanding members. Through regular consultations, surveys, and connecting at conference we try to stay well-informed and responsive to your needs.

Our membership satisfaction remains strong. From our regular member surveys, feedback shows that members are generally very satisfied with our services.

Most of our Board members are joining us here today, and we are all are eager to hear from you about your challenges and opportunities, and how we can continue to support you, so please seek us out for a chat!

Our partnerships are stronger than ever. The Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) has been instrumental in supporting many of our initiatives. Together, we've launched the Community Broadcasting Sector Roadmap 2033 setting out a compelling vision for the future of the sector.

We continue to build strong relationships with government, and our engagement at all levels has been fruitful.

Taking a leaf out of Valerie's book, I will paint a visual picture of the work that has gone into advocacy.

Picture Jon and Reece's bloodstone boots tattered and with holes in the soles from treading the halls of Parliament, glad handing any hapless politician unfortunate enough to step out for a sandwich! See their eyes light up as Jon reminds them of their local station's great work in the recent bushfire. Imagine the politician racing back to their office to instruct their poor staff to arrange a visit to their nearest radio station pronto! This is how it is done everyone!!! There's no escaping us!!

The CBAA team have spent a record number of hours advocating for our strong future this year!

Our work on the new Codes and our advocacy during the Government's recent Sustainability Review demonstrate the level of confidence that government has in CBAA's governance and leadership.

And on codes, let me take a minute to congratulate and thank Jon and the CBAA team members who have shepherded this important (if a little dry) work through for nearly a decade! Well done Jon!

Financial sustainability continues to be a key focus. We've worked to align our investment decisions with our mission, and we've integrated Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into our financial planning. This remains a work in progress, but our partnership with Perpetual Limited helps to balance ethical investment with strong financial returns.

We have also focused on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – known as JEDI - to support stations to achieve equity and diversity. Over the past year, our staff and full Board have participated in JEDI training with Diversity Arts Australia.

We aim for a diverse board, and for diversity and inclusion practices and principles at all levels of the sector – from who is on air to who is helping with governance and strategy. We have recently updated our Board Charter to reflect this and we are pleased to have introduced a session on diversity at this conference – that session is tomorrow and open to all and I encourage you to participate!

The Board has had equal numbers of men and women serving as Directors since the introduction of the gender voting rules. Given this, the separate 'women and gender diverse peoples rep' position is no longer serving a purpose and will be retired. We will put more focus and resource towards supporting stations to achieve gender equity through our JEDI work.

At a Board level, as is appropriate, we remain focused on effectiveness, with the aim of constantly improving the Governance of the CBAA. With that in mind, we have appointed two additional directors to the board in this past year, bringing additional skills, viewpoints, networks and experience.

This year, like the CBF, we joined the Observership program, an industry initiative to give aspiring Board Directors experience on Boards. We have been delighted to have Laura Bacon as our inaugural observer and look forward to participating in the program again next year. We are confident this is an effective way to support the development of governance skills in our sector given the specialised training and development offered by the program.

You can see it's been another big year! A huge number of hours go into the governance of the CBAA by a group of dedicated and professional volunteers. You are in good hands! I'd like to thank those fellow board members and the CBAA team for their dedication and hard work towards supporting community broadcasting.

Attachment C – CEO Jon Bisset's Speech

Thank you, Jacquie.

Good afternoon, everyone.

This year marks a milestone for CBAA—50 years of supporting community broadcasters—and as someone who has been deeply involved in this sector for over a decade, I know we stand at a critical juncture.

As I mentioned in my welcome address earlier today, the challenges facing our sector are real and growing, but so are the opportunities to adapt and thrive.

And speaking of challenges, I think we all had a bit of a laugh when Valarie mentioned this morning that "audiences today have the attention span of a flea."

Now, I'm not sure if that applies to all of you—hopefully not!—but it's a good reminder that we have to work even harder to keep our audiences engaged.

That's why our digital initiatives—like DAB+, online streaming, and the Community Radio Plus app—are so important. They help us connect with new audiences and provide content in ways that suit their lifestyles.

Since our founding, we've grown into an organisation that represents pretty much all community radio and TV stations.

But more importantly, we've built an organisation that listens to and acts on what our members need.

Over the past year, we've not only met you face-to-face but also participated in the many consultation sessions held as part of the government's Sustainability Review, ensuring your voices are heard and reflected in key decisions shaping our sector.

And beyond consultations, the station get-togethers we've hosted and attended—whether it's been national conferences or regional or online gatherings—have been invaluable.

These moments of connection between stations provide us the chance to share, collaborate, and build relationships that strengthen the sector as a whole.

That's what drives everything we do.

We've handled over 1,200 member support cases, but it's the conversations on the ground—the stories of both successes and challenges—that stick with me.

We've visited stations across the country—from Tasmania to WA—and the common theme has been the resilience of our sector, (slight pause) even in the face of some serious hurdles.

And as I said this morning, right now, 18% of stations are financially at risk—a 40% increase over last year.

We've known for some time that we can't afford to stand still.

That's why we've developing practical tools like the Resilience Assessment Tool.

This will help us get ahead of these challenges and offer tailored support before they become crises.

Now, looking ahead—our vision for the next decade is captured in the Roadmap 2033, developed with the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

This isn't just another plan— it's a blueprint for keeping community broadcasting central to Australian media.

And securing the right level of government support is crucial.

Our Federal Budget submission reflects that. We're pushing for a significant increase in funding—nearly double what the sector receives now.

This would mean more resources for station operations, workforce development, and growing your community impact.

One of the most exciting opportunities we have to reach new audiences and address gaps is through DAB+ digital radio.

DAB+ offers us the ability to connect with communities that, until now, haven't had a voice in certain regions. For example, there is currently no First Nations broadcaster in Adelaide and no multicultural broadcaster on the Gold Coast.

With the expansion of DAB+ and our streaming services and community radio plus app, we have the chance to diversify the voices and stories heard on Australian airwaves and ensure community radio continues to be representative and inclusive.

This technology gives us the ability to reach listeners wherever they are—and helps us build stronger, more connected communities.

We've already seen progress.

Take content, for example.

AMRAP continues to be a game-changer for Australian music, helping 477 unique artists—61% of whom are female or gender diverse—reach audiences through community radio.

Our news collaborations have also expanded.

We now have 21 contributors from 18 stations, representing First Nations, disability communities, and more and increasing our sectors profile in the corridors of power in Canberra.

These collaborations are amplifying local voices, and we'll be growing this network even further in the coming year.

On the technology side—we're making it easier for stations to operate efficiently and reach more listeners.

Our Music Recognition Technology, developed with APRA AMCOS, will take the manual work out of music reporting.

New digital tools allow stations to display live song data and enhance the listener experience across platforms, --- helping stations thrive in an increasingly digital world.

And this is important because—community broadcasting is reaching more Australians than ever before.

Over 5 million listeners now tune in to community radio each week—a 10% increase on last year. And another million are tuning into Community TV.

People turn to community broadcasting because they value the unique content we offer—music, stories, perspectives that aren't available anywhere else.

As we look to the future, one thing is clear.

Our strength lies in the diversity of our stations and the communities we serve.

Whether you're broadcasting First Nations news, curating independent music, or serving regional areas, you have been, and you continue to be, central to Australia's media landscape.

But we don't do this alone.

The Roadmap, our advocacy efforts, and the tools we're developing are all designed to make sure you have the support and resources you need to keep thriving.

And with your support—and the right partnerships—we can take community broadcasting to new heights.

Together, we can build a stronger future for community broadcasting.

Thanks all and back to you Jacque.

Attachment D –Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee's Chair, Quinn Glasson speech.

Thankyou Jacquie and Jon. I'll talk briefly about the CBAA annual financial report. CBAA's finances continue to be healthy and, like last year, our audit gave us the all-clear.

The financial statements include the accounts for CBAA and in the consolidated columns, the results for LINA, the Local and Independent News Association and the results for Free Digital Radio, a company with minimal income and expenses set up to help with expanding DAB+ into Adelaide and Launceston. The rest of my report relates just to CBAA's results.

You will see in the report that our headline surplus was \$623,000. However this number gives an inaccurate impression because accounting standards require us to show as income grant revenue received before we do the work to acquit the grant. It follows that in future we will be running deficits as our costs exceed our grant revenue, particularly as we roll out DAB+ services. A truer picture of our financial performance is our operating profit surplus on unrestricted funds. This is a much more modest \$32,000, down from \$104,000 last year.

It's worth pointing out a couple of key numbers from the financials.

- Our revenue from activities was up by \$500,000. This is a measure of the increased services provided by CBAA to the sector and includes services to LINA and Disability Media.
- Our labour costs for employees and contractors were up by \$802,000 or 24%. This is primarily due to employment costs for LINA, for which we were reimbursed.

I'd like to quickly touch on the change of auditor, assuming that the motions will be declared carried in a few minutes. I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of our current auditor, Michael Garcia, of Garcia Group Advisors, over the last seven years. His service has been excellent, and we have benefited from his rigour and his insight into our complex accounts and acquittals, and assistance with implementing major changes to accounting standards in 2020. Nevertheless, seven years is on the long side to retain the services of the same auditor, and the Audit and Risk Committee was clear about the need for the fresh insights and approaches of a new auditor. We now look forward to working with Crowe Howarth for the next five to seven years.

In closing, I would particularly like to thank the Finance Team, Jon, and the other members of the CBAA Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, Louisa and Peter for their work this year.

You will find our annual financial statements on our website and in the AGM portal.

Attachment E – Questions and Answers

The ACMA media release regarding the new Codes of Practice says, “We remain of the view that it is high time that the broadcasting industry voluntarily extend their rules to cover all TV- and radio-like content they make available online. This would ensure audiences benefit from the same safeguards, regardless of how they access the content.” Does CBAA support this?

At this stage, the CBAA does not have an official position on this matter. ACMA raised this with us recently, and we made it clear that our immediate priority was to finalise the Codes of Practice before moving on to address additional issues like this. We intend to give this further consideration in the new year, and we will of course consult widely across the sector.

There are a number of important questions to explore, such as the fact that any extension of the Codes to online content would not be enforceable by ACMA or under existing legislation. This raises significant questions about enforcement or investigation processes, which is certainly not a role the CBAA would take on.

We would also need to look at the broader legal obligations for stations in this space. For example, some existing rules in the legislation, such as the five-minute sponsorship limit, don't apply to online content. Addressing those inconsistencies is another issue we need to consider. What remains important to us is maintaining the high level of trust that our sector and our content has with the public.

We look forward to engaging with members and other stakeholders on this matter in the coming months.

One of the major changes in the new Codes, is the inclusion in 5.1 of mis/disinformation. Why was this included in the new Codes.

The inclusion of provisions addressing misinformation and disinformation in Section 5.1 of the new Community Radio Broadcasting Codes reflects a response to the growing concern over the spread of false information and its potential harm to communities.

By incorporating these provisions, the Codes aim to ensure that community broadcasters maintain accuracy and integrity in their news and journalistic content, thereby fostering trust and reliability among their audiences.

Would the CBAA be open to consider reinstating the award category Outstanding Small Station?

Thank you for your question regarding the potential reinstatement of the “Outstanding Small Station” award category.

CBAA continually reviews and refines the categories for the Community Broadcasting Awards. Each year, we consider a range of factors, including feedback from applicants, non-nominees (for example, reasons for not applying), and judges. For this year, we made some adjustments to address categories with fewer nominations, consolidate similar awards, reduce duplication, and ultimately manage the total number of awards, which had become quite high.

Our goal is to maintain a balance across the various types of awards—whether recognising individuals, programs, or stations—as well as addressing the diversity of community interests and station size. While we made these changes to improve the overall process, we remain open to revisiting categories where it makes sense. Feedback is essential to this process, and we always encourage it through our post-conference surveys. We will continue to listen to all suggestions, including this one, as we plan future awards.

The Sunshine Coast is currently on the list for rollout out of DAB+. We have heard from commercial markets, there is no interest particularly due to the high cost. And due to the topography, they would need 3-5 transmission sites, and would want to restrict community broadcasting to one site. Do you have any information on this?

The Sunshine Coast is on the list for potential DAB+ rollout, along with 10-12 other locations across Australia.

Whilst commercial radio may have indicated concerns about the potential high costs of implementation and the region's topography requiring multiple transmission sites and may also have mentioned limiting community broadcasting to a single site, it's important to note that community radio has legislated capacity on all DAB+ multiplexes and cannot legally be excluded from infill transmitters.

CBAA is closely monitoring all DAB+ developments to ensure community broadcasters are fully included in the process, as is our legislative right.

CBAA plays a key role in managing DAB+ services across Australia and works closely with stations to ensure they can access opportunities and deliver quality broadcasts. Stations should not be worried or concerned by statements made by commercial broadcasters. If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to call the CBAA team.

We'll be in touch with you directly to provide more detailed information and support. Rest assured, we are here to ensure your station doesn't miss any opportunities and is well-positioned to transition to DAB+ successfully.

Has the CBAA considered undertaking a nationwide marketing campaign, with the aim of attracting volunteers to the sector?

The CBAA is open to exploring the idea of a nationwide marketing campaign to attract volunteers. However, such campaigns require significant human and financial resources, and they can be challenging to implement effectively due to the diverse needs and requirements of individual stations across the country.

Each year, we actively participate in Volunteer Week, celebrating the incredible contributions of volunteers in the sector and showcasing opportunities available at community radio stations. This is a key initiative that highlights the role of volunteers and helps attract new participants.

We remain committed to encouraging Australians to engage with and participate in community radio. Our Sector Roadmap helps us define and share the story of our vibrant

and diverse sector, laying the groundwork for future promotional efforts to support volunteer engagement.

CBAA are encouraging stations to apply for charity status. We are finding it's so difficult to get the governance right. What can CBAA do to help us in this area.?

Currently, Megan Williams is working on this project to help stations apply for charity status. By becoming a charity, stations will be able to avoid paying income tax.

We are working with the ACNC so as to develop a streamlined process for all stations who require our assistance, and we have drafted clauses you can add to your constitution.

Megan is holding weekly check ins with those stations who need help. We can connect Megan to you.

You mentioned the closure of six stations in the past 12 months, could we receive more information so we can learn from those stations' situations.

Most of the stations that closed were operating on temporary licences and were small stations in smaller communities. These stations often faced significant challenges in attracting and retaining volunteers. In many cases, the decision to close and return their licences was made by the stations themselves.

One station, however, was deregistered due to non-compliance with its relevant state legislation.

Overall, there was no consistent pattern among the closures, as the stations were located in different parts of the country. However, common themes included difficulties with workforce retention and volunteer recruitment—challenges that are shared by many volunteer-based organisations. Rising costs of living, stagnant income levels, and increasing competition for grants have further compounded these issues.

The CBAA is actively advocating for the government to double sector funding to help address these challenges. Insights from the Sector Roadmap also highlight that stations with paid staff tend to be more sustainable, making workforce development a key priority.

We remain committed to supporting stations like yours with practical tools and resources to build resilience and ensure long-term viability.

You mentioned stations should be able to operate for six months without income. We would be interested in having a health evaluation and receive some recommendations. Is this something CBAA could help with, and would proactive measures help us obtain more funding?

The CBAA has offered a Governance Health Check for several years, which helps stations assess their governance structures and identify areas for improvement. We are also developing a Resilience Toolkit. This Toolkit is being designed to assist stations in evaluating their financial and operational resilience, providing actionable recommendations to strengthen sustainability. Proactive measures like these, combined

with sector-wide data, are critical to our advocacy work and efforts to secure more funding for the sector.

Further to the additional funding request, can we lobby for more sponsorship opportunities? We would be able to achieve much more if the current rules were changed.

Yes, the government's sustainability review identified challenges with the current sponsorship legislation. We have specifically advocated for the removal of compulsory tagging and a general simplification of sponsorship regulations.

However, regulatory changes take time, as they require Parliamentary approval and a formal voting process. This makes reform a longer-term objective.

In the short term, our primary focus is on securing increased funding for the sector to address immediate needs and strengthen operations. Sponsorship reform remains on our advocacy agenda, and we will continue to push for changes that provide greater flexibility and opportunities for stations.

Thank you for your questions, everyone.