# media release

24 October 2017

# ABC announces 19 new radio streams available by 2018

The ABC has announced that 19 regional radio stations will be streamed live via mobile and online by March 2018, through an additional \$1 million investment in local communities.

From mid-March 2018, the following 19 communities will be able to tune into their local ABC station on the go:

Wollongong Lismore Wagga Wagga Orange Tamworth

Bega Coffs Harbour Maroochydore Bundaberg Townsville Rockhampton Mackay Albany Geraldton Esperance Mount Gambier Port Lincoln Renmark Shepparton Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The Director of ABC Regional, Fiona Reynolds, said that adding 19 live audio streaming services to the existing 23 regional streams highlights the ABC's commitment to making news and information available to more Australians in more ways.

"Earlier this year, the ABC announced its largest single investment in rural and regional Australia, with an additional \$15.4 million each year in ongoing funding to recruit up to 80 new content makers focussed on regional storytelling," Mrs Reynolds said.

"Another \$4 million is being spent on tools and equipment, and now an extra \$1 million has been committed to expand live audio streaming services," Mrs Reynolds said.

The Director of ABC Radio, Michael Mason, said the broadcaster has been adding live audio streams over the past two years and completing the service for rural and regional Australians will be an important milestone.

"Regional Australians rely on the ABC not only for news, entertainment, and in times of emergency, but as a source of companionship as they often have to travel long distances for work and to see family and friends," Mr Mason said.

"This is reflected in our audience reach and engagement figures which indicate that over the past 12 months, regional audio streams have been listened to 2.24 million times. We have also had a 25.2% increase in audience reach over the last 6 months, compared with the previous 6 months – so there is clearly a demand for more live audio streaming services," Mr Mason said.

Audiences can access the ABC online streams via their local station websites; on the ABC Radio website: abc.net.au/radio and on the new ABC listen app which is available for both <u>iphone</u> and <u>android</u>.

From mid-March 2018, the ABC will offer live audio streaming for 42 regional locations, which are listed below.

# ABC REGIONAL STREAMS:

#### Victoria

Station	Link
Shepparton	Link released in mid-March 2018
Ballarat	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_ballarat/live
Mildura	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_milduraswanhill/live
Horsham	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_westernvic/live
Warrnambool	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_southwestvic/live
Bendigo	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_centralvic/live
Sale	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_gippsland/live
Wodonga	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_goulburnmurray/live

#### **New South Wales**

Station	Link
Wollongong	Link released in mid-March 2018
Lismore	Link released in mid-March 2018
Wagga Wagga	Link released in mid-March 2018
Orange	Link released in mid-March 2018
Tamworth	Link released in mid-March 2018
Bega	Link released in mid-March 2018
Coffs Harbour	Link released in mid-March 2018
Port Macquarie	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_midnorthcoast/live
Broken Hill	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_brokenhill/live
Newcastle	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_newcastle/live
Dubbo	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_westernplains/live

#### Queensland

Station	Link
Maroochydore	Link released in mid-March 2018
Bundaberg	Link released in mid-March 2018
Townsville	Link released in mid-March 2018
Rockhampton	Link released in mid-March 2018
Mackay	Link released in mid-March 2018
Mt Isa	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_northwest/live

Gold Coast	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_goldcoast/live
Cairns	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_farnorth/live
Toowoomba	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_southqld/live
Longreach	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_westqld/live

# North Territory

Station	Link
Alice Springs	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_alicesprings/live

# Western Australia

Station	Link
Albany	Link released in mid-March 2018
Geraldton	Link released in mid-March 2018
Esperance	Link released in mid-March 2018
Kalgoorlie	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_goldfields/live
Broome	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_kimberley/live
Karratha	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_northwestwa/live
Bunbury	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_southwestwa/live

# South Australia

Station	Link
Mount Gambier	Link released in mid-March 2018
Port Lincoln	Link released in mid-March 2018
Renmark	Link released in mid-March 2018
Port Pirie	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_northandwest/live

### Tasmania

Station	Link
Launceston	https://radio.abc.net.au/stations/local_northtas/live

For more information Sharelle Mathias-Carman Media Manager, ABC Regional 03 8646 1035 <u>mathias-carman.sharelle@abc.net.au</u>