Proposals in answer to Discussion Paper on VHF FM Broadcasting.

The following proposals cover Items F,G & H

Who can apply for these frequencies?

These frequencies should be allocated to groups with the following definitions.

Those intending to operate "'Not for profit', 'Common Interest Group' and 'Local Community Radio Stations'"

Run and operated mainly by volunteer staff.

Any paid advertising restricted to cover running costs.

Programme content and musical genre not to mimic any commercial radio station.

Provide reasonable air time for diverse ethnic and interest groups in its community.

Should be registered as an Incorporated Society and/or Charitable Trust with the Inland Revenue Dept.

These groups having applied and identified as bone fide operators should be allocated a 'granted frequency' and not be exposed to any competitive system such as auctions. There could be a gazetted period when objections could be lodged prior to the implementation of the licence.

Allocation of frequencies.

The "'Not for profit', 'Common Interest Group' and 'Local Community Radio Stations'" should be able to be served with a very small number of allocated frequencies. As an example in the area of the writer:- 6 towns could be covered by 2 frequencies, this is possible as NZ is a mountainous country and higher VHF frequencies are quickly attenuated by hills and valleys. An example –if 2 frequencies were allocated and called A and B (for this exercise) the town of Katikati could be issued with A, Waihi B, Whangamata A, Thames B, Paeroa A and Te Aroha B. This pattern could be repeated across the whole of the country. The only addition might be in the larger Plains areas of the country –frequency C might have to be created.

Power levels for such stations would be restricted to 20db (100W) and the radiating antenna to be sited either within or not further than 1 kilometre of the urban boundary, and shall be no higher than 30 metres above the ground of the support structure and should not be sited on a hill or in a position whereby the transmission could cause interference to other services in adjacent areas.

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Waihi Community Radio