



Proposal to vary the Tamworth Radio licence area plan

**Consultation Paper
December 2022**

Submission Dated 26th January 2023



Overview of changes in population in the Tamworth RA 2

The following proposal has been approved by the committee members of the Tamworth Broadcasting Society Inc.

The committee notes that since the licence allocation for community radio station 2YOU made in 1983, the initial RA 2 coverage with 1Kw allocation for Tamworth, over the years has seen a suburban population density that has spread into new geographical terrain causing some of the community receiving poor reception of the 88.9Mhz service.

Another factor is the change in Tamworth's City population since 1983 when it was 29,400. Tamworth City Council was replaced by Tamworth Regional Council in 2004 and included Tamworth's combining with other regional councils. This resulted in diversification of the population spread with more services centralised in medical, education and government services.

The population growth in the Tamworth Regional Council LGA in 2023 est. is *66,002. Therefore, the population has increased by 35,381 or over 200 percent over 1983. The Tamworth Regional Council LGA population is forecast to grow across the LGA for successive years and is forecast to grow to 79,468 by 2041.

The increased LGA covers the city of Tamworth and the satellite towns and villages of Attunga, Barraba, Bendemeer, Dungowan, Duri, Kootingal, Limbri, Manilla, Moonbi, Niangala, Nundle, Somerton, Upper Manilla and Woolbrook.

To service the population that now live in areas outside of the Tamworth City CBD, new regional suburbs that did not exist in 1983 including new suburbs e.g. Windmill Downs, Daruka Estate, Duri, Moore Creek to name a few established. 2YOU is the only general licenced community station to serve this region.

These suburbs have grown by several thousands. Many have been shielded from the 2YOU 88.9 Mhz Transmitter site located on Signal One Communications site, Bald Hill, Tamworth NSW.

Bald Hill is located on part of the Great Dividing Range and runs 19 kilometres north east of the city of Tamworth situated as part of the Moonbi Range. The Moonbi Range rises from 500–1,300 metres (1,600–4,300 ft) above sea level.

The Bald Hill transmission site 5 kilometres east of the city of Tamworth is located on sections of the Great Dividing Range. Manilla, Bendemeer and Nundle fall within the stations RA 2 but received poor reception from the Bald Hill Transmitter.

* Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), December 2020Source



Request for improving coverage.

2YOU make a request to improve coverage in the current RA 2 increasing from 1kw ERP to 3kw ERP to service parts of the population in the LGA thus avoiding multiple translators.

The further request is to increase the stations Antennae height from 15 metres to 30 meters. Previous services on the towers between 25 metres to 30 metres are no longer required by other services due to changes in their delivery technology. This will also allow 2YOU to have significant clearance from other services on the tower.

This request approval will allow improved reception to the Tamworth LGA growth in areas with difficult geographical terrain reception towards the Nundle, Bendemeer region 45Kms from Tamworth on the fringes of RA 2 licence area from Bald Hill.

Quirindi Transmission coverage.

Sections of the Great Dividing Range were also previously shielded Quirindi from the 88.9fm Bald Hill Transmission signal. 2YOU has previously requested coverage of the lower part of the RA2 coverage area including Quirindi.

2YOU was granted permission by the ACMA to retransmit from the Liverpool Plains Shire Council allocated frequency 96.3 Mhz due to poor reception from the Tamworth Bald Hill site on the 2YOU frequency of 88.9 Mhz.

2YOU accepts the conversion from 96.3 Mhz to 99.5 Mhz with effective 150W radiated power from the who'd-thought -it -lookout SW of the town of Quirindi, the current transmission site of 96.3 Mhz.

This will allow 2YOU to have its own dedicated frequency. Following significant promotion to the listeners on 96.3 Mhz, it should allow a smooth listener transition to the new frequency.



Proposed Manilla retransmission coverage.

The current service to Manilla that's included in our RA 2 coverage, is poor in many parts of the town with many phone requests to receive a clearer signal from 2YOU. 2YOU has sent an aerial technician to several businesses to install an outside high gain aerial to receive a clearer signal for 88.9fm

Manilla is part of the Tamworth Regional Councils LGA.

Many of the residents in the town of Manilla, work in the City of Tamworth on a daily basis and this community relies heavily on information services of Tamworth provided by 2YOU.

Services for both 92.9 and 2TM will be allocated a frequency for rebroadcast.

Therefore, 2YOU would request a similar allocation licence of 100W ERP frequency to provide a similar broadcast transmission to the Manilla township to improve reception of 88.9fm.

Conclusion.

We ask that the ACMA consider all the changes as laid out in this consultation paper. The Board of 2you have made several submissions to review coverage by 2you due to the population growth across the region that is vastly different to when the licence was allocated in 1983.