

Fiji shuts down ABC Radio Australia broadcasts

Wednesday, 15 April 2009

MELBOURNE – Radio Australia’s FM transmitters in Suva and Nadi were shutdown early this morning by officers from Fiji’s Ministry of Information.

Radio Australia has broadcast uninterrupted on FM in Fiji since 2004 and for seventy years on shortwave. Radio Australia has become a reliable source of news and information to local listeners. According to a 2008 survey conducted by Fijian-based Tebbutt Research, 22.5% of Fijians have listened to Radio Australia within the last week.

Despite the shutdown of its FM transmitters, Radio Australia will maintain this essential service online at www.radioaustralia.net.au and over the following shortwave radio frequencies:

SUVA TIMES	SW FREQUENCIES
5am – 8am (Pacific Beat 6am)	9580, 11880
8am – 10am (Pacific Beat 8am – 9am)	11660
9am – 11am (AM 9.10am – 9.40am)	13630
10am - noon (Connect Asia 11am - noon)	15560
Noon – 2pm (Breakfast Club)	17715, 17795
2pm – 5pm (TWT 2pm – 3pm)	15515
5pm – 8pm (Pacific Beat 5pm – 6pm RNZI Dateline 6.30pm – 7pm)	15160, 13630
8pm – 2am (PM from 8pm rpt 11pm, AsiaPacific from 10pm)	9580
2am – 5am	7240

Australia Network television, part of the ABC International division with Radio Australia, continues to broadcast throughout the region on cable and through local free to air stations.

The Director ABC International, Murray Green, said “The closing of Radio Australia in Suva and Nadi is most regrettable. Fiji has had a strong tradition of independent journalism and Radio Australia has been part of that for seventy years. Our Pacific correspondent Sean Dorney was deported yesterday. Now we are off the air. We look forward to a Fiji, where an independent media, committed to fairness and accuracy, can thrive”.

For further media enquires please contact:

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