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Submission:

- I am presenting this document in reference to the request for submission regarding the structure of fees for renting crown land sites where there is a radio site. I am a member of a non profit club( Glen Innes and district Amateur operators) . We are a very small group of amateurs who way back in 1978 set up a radio site on Mt Rumbree, using money from each of the members and local community installed a tower and a small brick hut to cater for single radio system in the amateur band providing a service for amateurs and a link in the WICEN network. In NSW, WICEN operates as a specialist support squad under the NSW State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN). WICEN originally started life in NSW as a sub-committee of the Wireless Institute of Australia, but is now a separately incorporated body and is a member squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA). This offers (among other benefits) our members the protection of an insurance policy designed to protect volunteer workers while working for the community. WICEN still maintains a close relationship with the WIA as we feel that the two organisations have shared goals in furthering the access of amateur radio to the limited spectrum space available.

- There is still a small group of amateurs who use the radio system from Armidale, Inverell and Glen Innes area. And for some time the cost of having our gear up there was very small and we were able to cover it by the members donations.

When we were no longer able to meet with the substantial increase in the rent of the site we offered the NSW SES the option of installing gear on our tower in in our hut if they could help us meet the cost of the rent for which they agreed and have been doing so for the last 10 years.

In recent times we also were presented with a additional fee from the Local council for rates and because of this we also offered the site to the Glen Innes Rescue Squad who are a member of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association VRA.

As you can see the site is for non profit organisation namely those that are part of the emergency management side, and we ask that this be taken into consideration when you look and the fee structure. Obviously we would like to ask for a exemption from paying rent but we know that in this day and age that is unlikely so we ask for either a reduction in the fee or at least a hold on the current fee for a period of time say 5 years at which time it could be reassessed.

Regards

Mike Brewer

Site manager Glen Innes and District Amateur operators

Captain Glen Innes Rescue Squad VRA

past member NSW SES

ACMA SITE ID 250676 Glen Innes Amateur Radio MOUNT RUMBREE