

From the office of the
Chief Executive Officer



5 March 2010

Senator Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
GPO Box 2154
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Minister

The Australia Council are supportive of the Australian Government's efforts to maximise the value of the wireless spectrum and welcome the opportunity to comment on the digital dividend green paper.

As you are aware many of the wireless audio devices used at live performance venues operate within the UHF spectrum currently used by television broadcasters. The new uses of the 'digital dividend spectrum' and the re-stacking of digital broadcasting services may cause the currently utilised frequencies no longer to be available to the arts and entertainment sector. These changes have the potential to create significant logistical and financial challenges for live performance venues across the country.

In order that this transition is not an onerous one for the sector, it is important that some of the concerns for live performance venues are taken into account. These issues include:

- The costs of investing in new equipment;
- The availability of sufficient spectrum to accommodate current and future use;
- Sufficient time to make the necessary changes.

It is important to note that a large proportion of live performance venues operate on very small profit margins and have limited capacity to update their equipment to meet the needs the new digital environment.

We trust these issues will be considered in the Government's determination of the digital dividend.

Yours sincerely

Libby Christie
Acting CEO