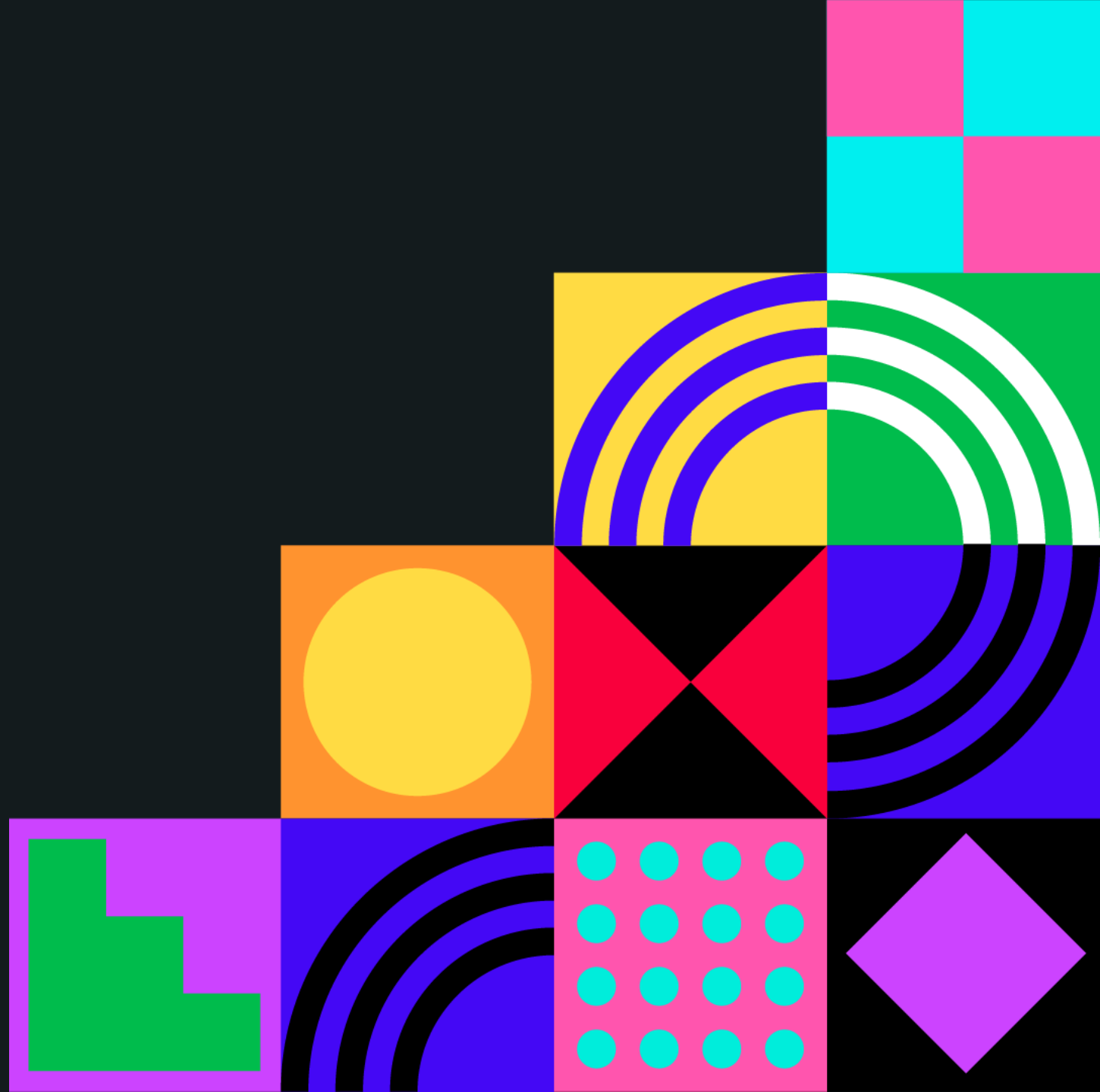# Community Radio Landscape

CBAA | COMMUNITY BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

CBAA Technology Overview

FREE-TO-AIR BROADCAST LICENSES AM/FM AND DAB+

DIGITAL CONTENT DELIVERY (TO STATIONS)

COMMUNITY RADIO PLUS; METADATA, ON STEAMING AND PODCASTING.

ACMA, ADVOCACY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2025 Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice

Technical Perspectives

1. **Governance and Compliance**

2. **Broadcast Content and Technical Standards**

3. **Emergency Broadcasting**

4. **Complaints and Record-Keeping**

5. **First Nations Engagement**

The new Codes emphasize flexibility but also require proactive systems and good record-keeping.

Technologists play a key role in ensuring stations meet these standards.

Actions for Technicians

01
Review and Update Technical Protocols: Ensure all technical operations align with the new Codes, including scheduling, content monitoring, and emergency broadcasting procedures.

02
Participate in Training: Engage in training sessions to understand the implications of the Codes on technical operations and compliance requirements.

03
Enhance Record-Keeping: Implement or update systems for logging broadcasts and maintaining records to facilitate complaint investigations and compliance audits.

04
Collaborate with Content Teams: Work closely with content producers to ensure that technical aspects support the station's obligations under the new Codes, particularly concerning local content and cultural sensitivity.

Sustainability Review 2025

Impact of the 2025 Sustainability Review on Broadcast Technologists

1. Emphasis on Digital Transformation

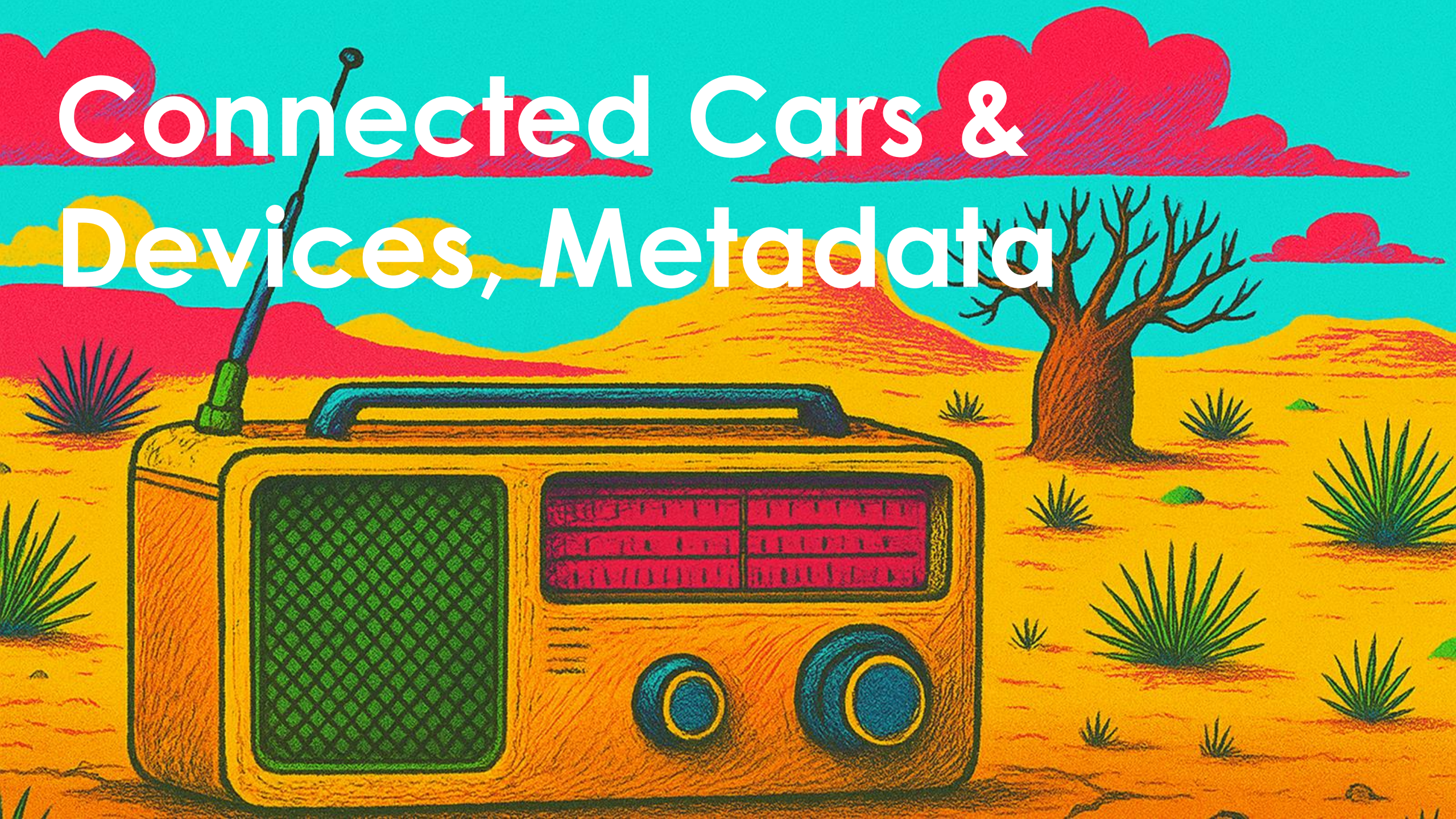2. Infrastructure Upgrades

3. Enhanced Emergency Broadcasting

4. Training and Capacity Building

5. Collaboration and Resource Sharing

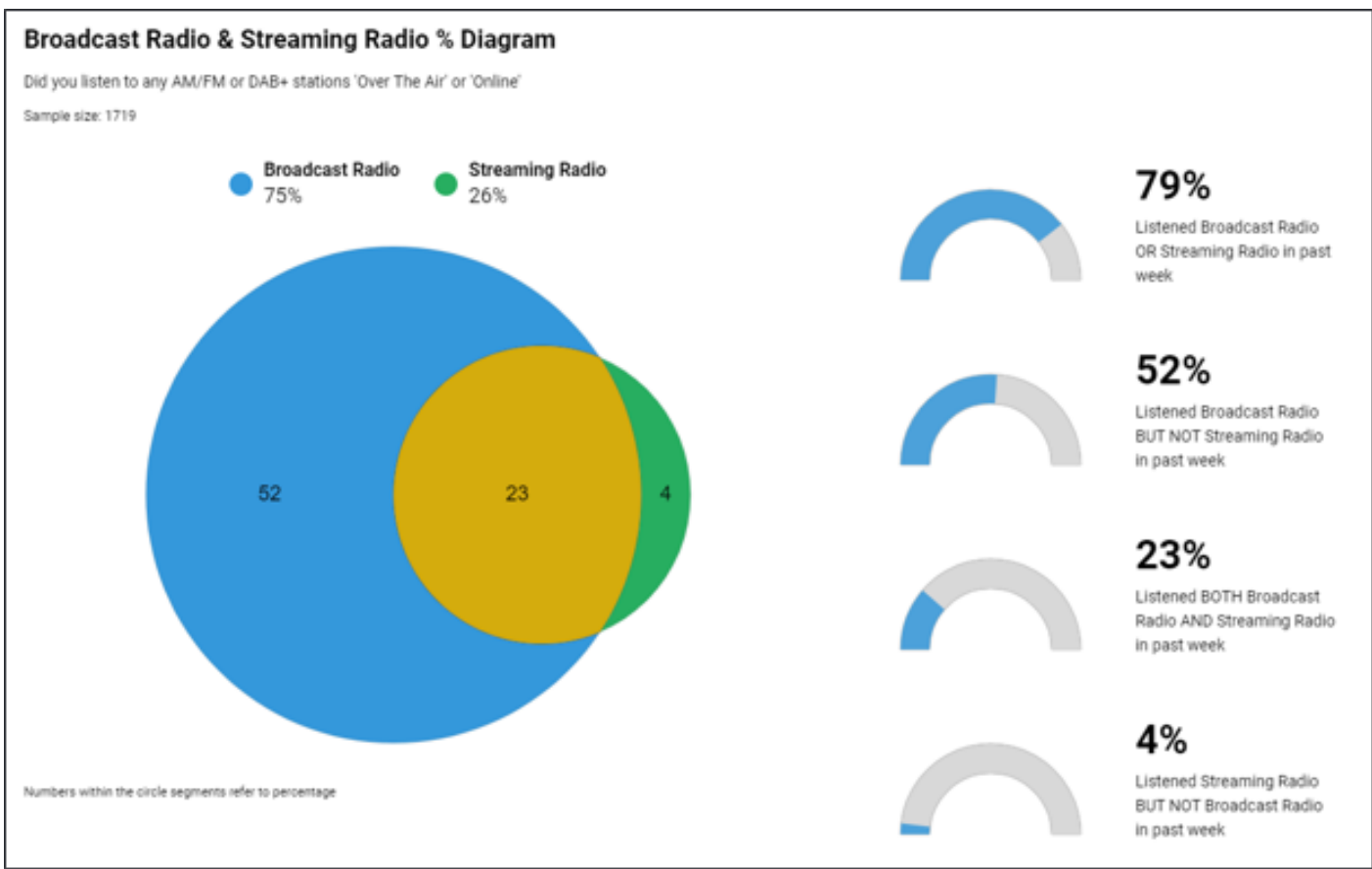Connected Cars & Devices, Metadata

The Infinite Dial 2024 Report

Broadcast Radio & Streaming Radio % Diagram

Did you listen to any AM/FM or DAB+ stations 'Over The Air' or 'Online'

Sample size: 1719

- Broadcast Radio 75%
- Streaming Radio 26%

52   23   4

Numbers within the circle segments refer to percentage

79% — Listened Broadcast Radio OR Streaming Radio in past week

52% — Listened Broadcast Radio BUT NOT Streaming Radio in past week

23% — Listened BOTH Broadcast Radio AND Streaming Radio in past week

4% — Listened Streaming Radio BUT NOT Broadcast Radio in past week

Smart Speaker Ownership

- Doubled since 2020 to 34%

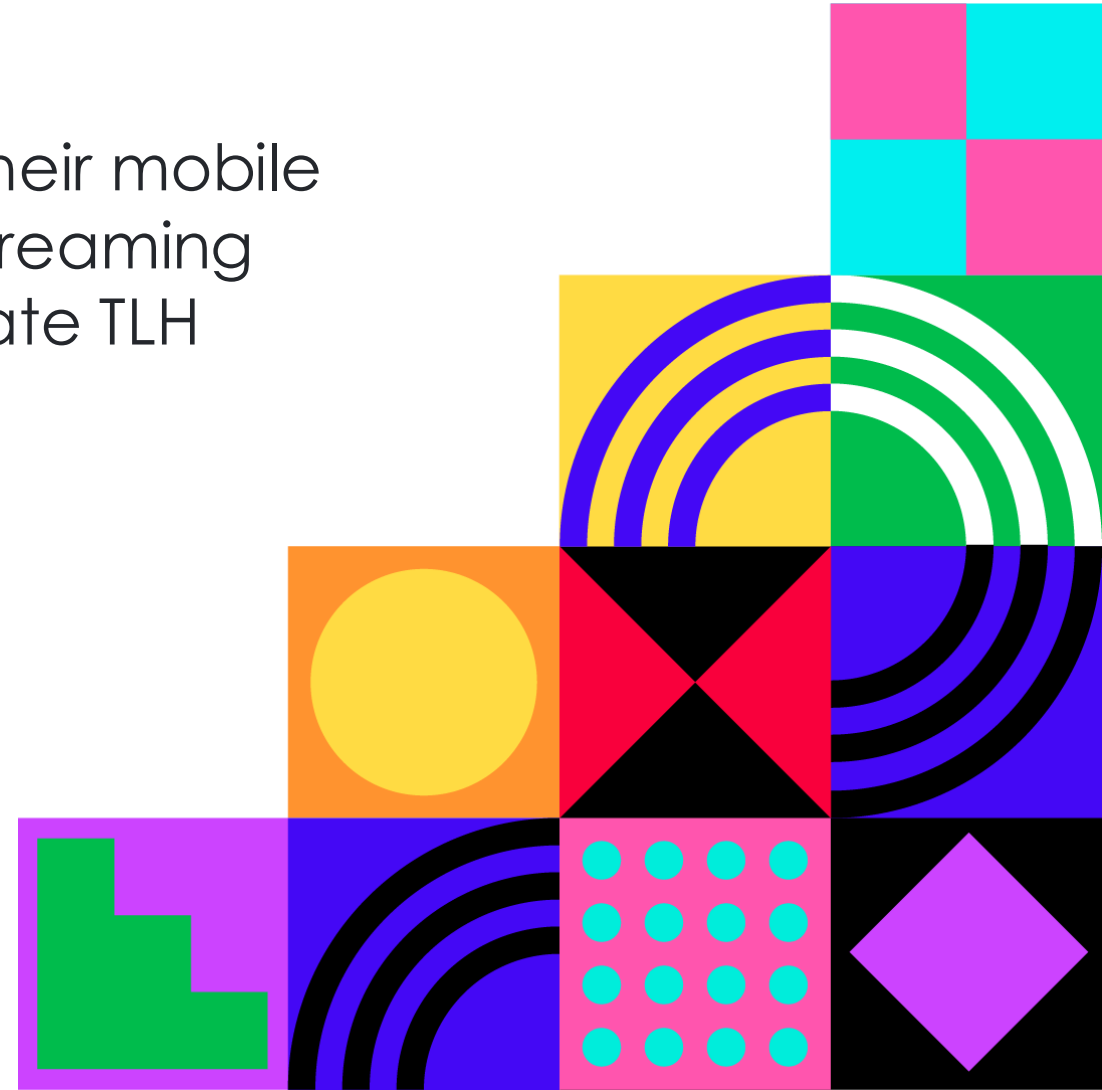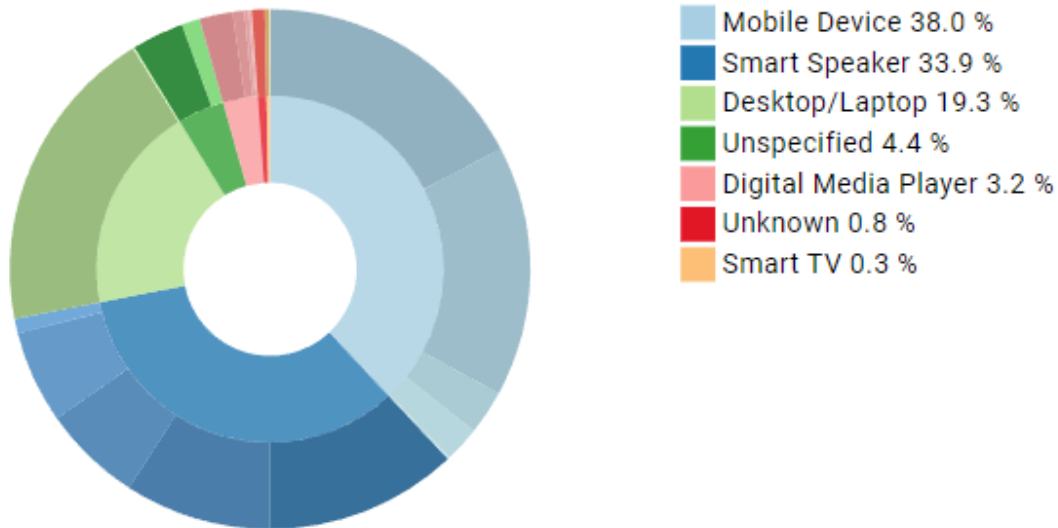- 65% of owners listen to radio

[Infinite Dial 24 Full Results Link](#)

Audio Streaming
Total Listening Hours by Family and Device

- For Generation Y and Z their radio is their mobile
- Mobile devices are the No.1 for live streaming
- Smart Speakers are starting to dominate TLH

Mobile Device 38.0 %
Smart Speaker 33.9 %
Desktop/Laptop 19.3 %
Unspecified 4.4 %
Digital Media Player 3.2 %
Unknown 0.8 %
Smart TV 0.3 %
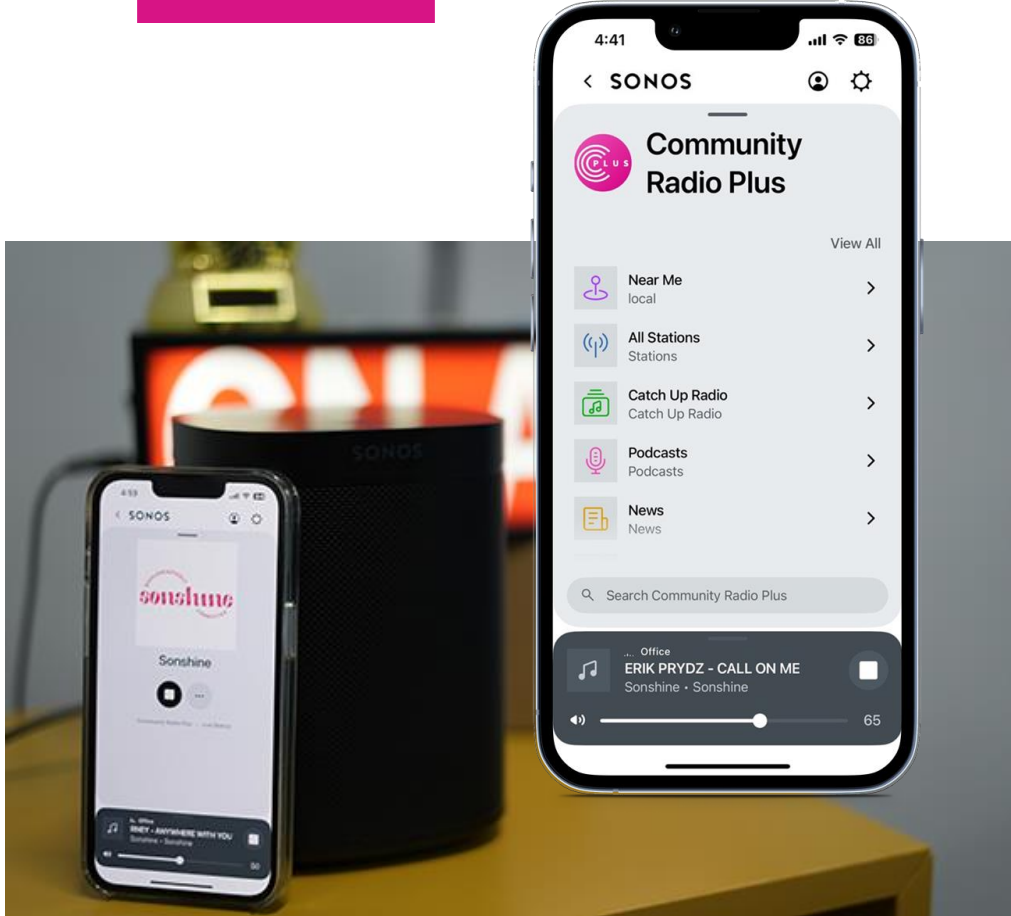
11

Audio Streaming Apps

Community Radio Plus Station Metadata enables:

- Community Radio Plus app
- Apple CarPlay & Android Auto
- Sonos music app
- Alexa smart speakers
- DTS Autostage
- iHeartRadio Australia
- Google Home CRA partnership in future

UPDATE YOUR INFO

About DTS Autostage

Launched in 2020

Combines digital broadcasting and internet services

Your radio station is the hero of the dashboard story: powered by rich, consistent metadata, advanced services and broadcast content protection

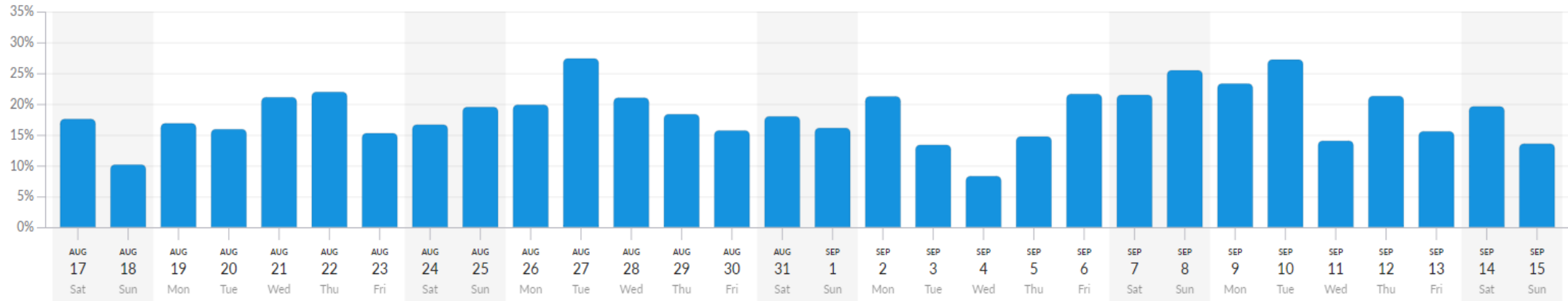Delivers basic analytics and metrics to broadcasters at no cost

BROADCASTER PORTAL

STATIONS   ORGANIZATION

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

2NUR FM   8 / 17 / 2024 — 9 / 15 / 2024   (•) Station details →

| Station reach | Day part activity | Heatmap | Top charts |

STATION REACH CHART 08-17-2024 - 09-15-2024   CHART MODE: ▌▌ REACH VALUE ⌄

AVERAGE REACH	AVERAGE REACH CHANGE	TOTAL SESSIONS	AVERAGE SESSION TIME
18.48% of the market	0.96% for selected period	5137	5 min 41 s

REACH PER DATE 30 ENTRIES   PAGE 1 OF 1 ← PREV NEXT →

DATE ↑	DAY	REACH VALUE	REACH CHANGE	TOTAL SESSIONS	AVG. SESSION TIME	AVG. TIME CHANGE
8/17/2024	Saturday	17.64%	+2.40%	143	6 min 20 s	+8 s
8/18/2024	Sunday	10.23%	-3.91%	79	5 min 58 s	-51 s
8/19/2024	Monday	16.94%	+0.85%	146	5 min 2 s	+29 s
8/20/2024	Tuesday	15.99%	+2.06%	164	4 min 33 s	-15 s
8/21/2024	Wednesday	21.17%	+6.62%	188	5 min 17 s	+28 s
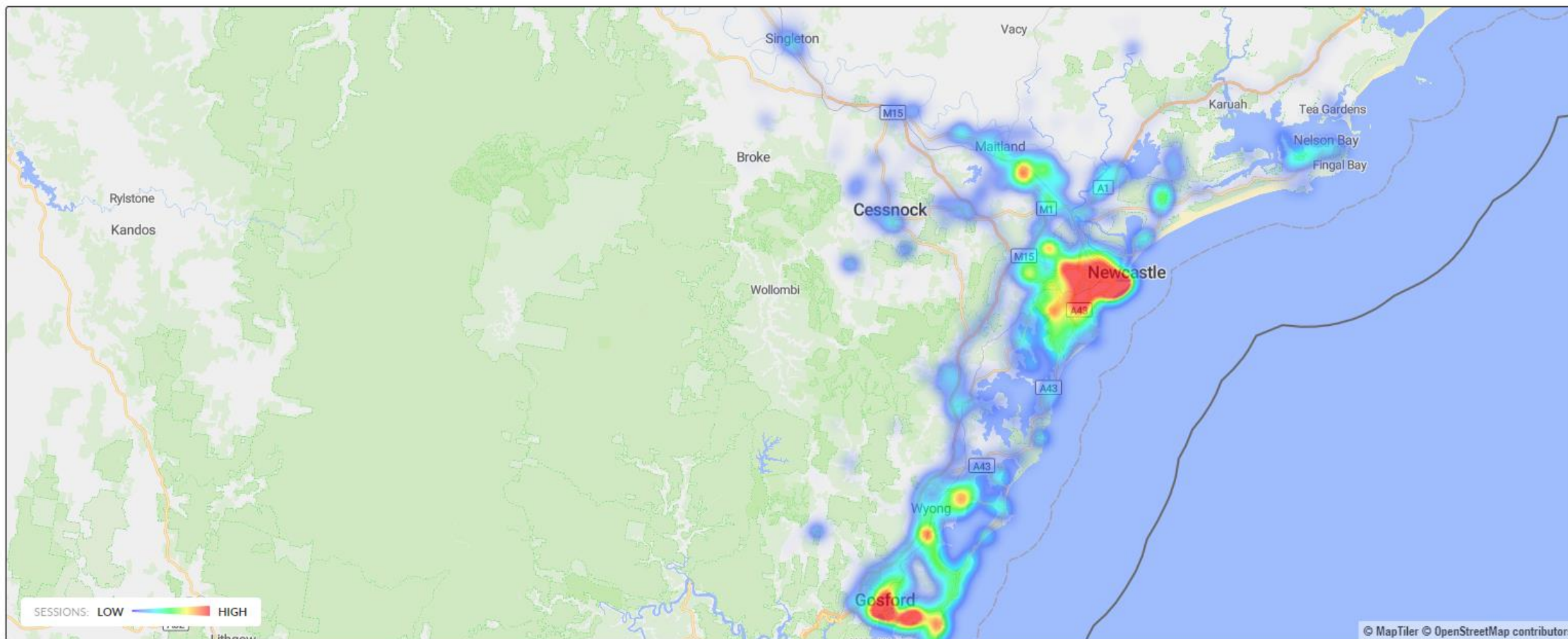
The Broadcast Spectrum in Australia

Comparative Strengths:

AM: Best for long distances, especially rural/remote

FM: Quality and simplicity for local broadcasting

DAB+:

      Spectrum efficiency (18+ services per multiplex)

      Advanced features (text, images, service linking)

      Lower power transmission footprint

      Suited to urban infill and regional aggregation

      More cost effective (theoretically…)

ACMA's Role in Broadcast Planning

Spectrum planning and management
(Radiocommunications Act 1992)

Licensing of broadcasting services
(under the BSA 1992)

Technical planning
(band plans, licence area plans)

Coordination with international spectrum
bodies (ITU, APG)

Five Year Spectrum Outlook

What is the FYSO?

ACMA's planning document outlining priorities in radiocomms over 5 years

Includes broadcasting, mobile broadband, emergency services, space
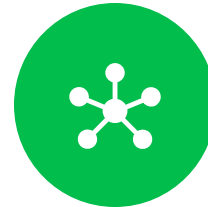
What's Happening Now Broadcasting Priorities

Extend DAB+ into more regional centers

Explore potential transition paths from AM to FM and digital in some areas

Consideration of new technologies like DRM in non-metro zones
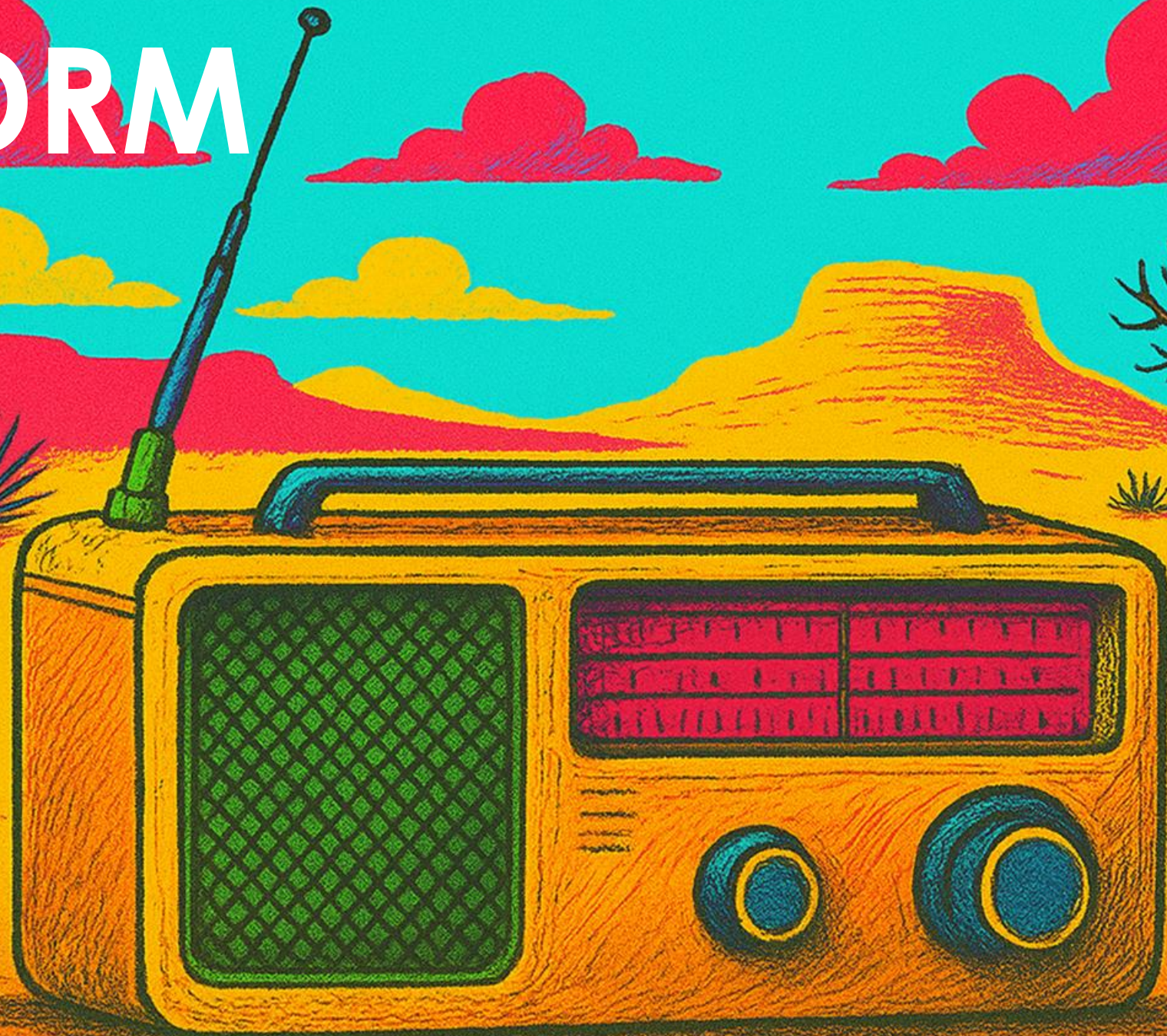
Ongoing planning around shared spectrum use and improved coverage

Push for greater flexibility in how spectrum is allocated for broadcasting services

CBAA

Challenges with DRM in Australia

🔌 **Few Receivers Available**
Hard to find DRM-capable radios in retail or cars

💸 **Higher Costs Per Station**
Each station needs its own transmitter
(no multiplexing like DAB+)

🔬 **No Local Infrastructure**
No shared transmission or support ecosystem
in place

🌐 **Low Global Momentum**
Limited rollout worldwide; still mostly in trial stages

🛠️ **Complex to Deploy**
Technical challenges, especially on AM bands and
remote areas

⚖️ **No Clear Licensing Path**
Not currently supported under ACMA band plans for
permanent use

What ACMA Is Doing

Monitoring global deployments
(India, Brazil, parts of EU)

Engaging with stakeholders to assess
interest

Supporting technical trials (where
spectrum allows)

Awaiting critical mass of policy and
industry support

Emerging Opportunities for Technicians

Ongoing DAB+ planning – especially regional multiplexing

Receiver evolution – cars, home audio, smart devices

Integration of hybrid radio (broadcast + IP)

Push for spectrum flexibility in FYSO

Trials or field tests in remote/rural areas of new technologies.

Some Things to look out for...

Station X

Exceeding Transmission Power: Increased its transmission output power beyond the 1kW Effective Radiated Power (ERP) limit specified in its transmitter licence.

Antenna Height Violation: The station operated its antenna at a height exceeding the permitted limit outlined in its licence conditions.

These actions contravened Section 113 of the Radiocommunications Act 1992

How to Avoid...

Compliance Monitoring
Regularly verify that transmission power and antenna height comply with licence specifications.
acma.gov.au

Documentation
Maintain accurate records of technical parameters and any modifications to equipment.

Training
Ensure technical staff are aware of licence conditions and the importance of adhering to them.

Audit Preparedness
Be prepared for potential audits by having documentation and systems in place to demonstrate compliance.

Undisclosed LPON 'Station Y'

Unlicensed Transmissions:
Operated transmitters from **unauthorized sites** not listed on their LPON license.

Technical Non-Compliance:
Used **equipment and configurations** that breached LPON license conditions under the **Radiocommunications Act 1992**.

Implications for Broadcast Technicians:

LOCATION MATTERS
ENSURE ALL TRANSMITTERS ARE INSTALLED **ONLY AT AUTHORISED LOCATIONS** AS SPECIFIED ON THE LICENCE.

EQUIPMENT AUDITS
VERIFY THAT **TECHNICAL PARAMETERS (ERP, FREQUENCY, ANTENNA SPECS)** MATCH THOSE APPROVED BY THE ACMA.

LICENSING AWARENESS
UNDERSTAND THE **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LPON, HPON, AND COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES** – ESPECIALLY FOR SHARED FACILITIES OR LEGACY INFRASTRUCTURE.

DOCUMENTATION & REPORTING
MAINTAIN CLEAR RECORDS OF INSTALLATIONS AND BE PREPARED FOR **RANDOM COMPLIANCE AUDITS** BY ACMA.

Thank you.

For more information
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