

BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Submission for Ordinary Meeting held on 28 June 2013

TITLE:	BOOSTING COVERAGE OF FM RADIO STATIONS – REBEL AND BREEZE FM	DOC REF: Item 5
---------------	---	---------------------------

REPORT BY:	Belinda Colless Economic and Corporate Development Officer	DATE: 11 June 2013
-------------------	---	------------------------------

IPR REFERENCE:

Theme 1: A Growing Economy- E1. Promote Brewarrina Shire as a destination with a point of difference.

PURPOSE:

To advise Council on what is involved in boosting the coverage of Rebel and Breeze FM Radio Stations in Brewarrina Township.

CONTENT:

At present the Rebel and Breeze services are reaching Brewarrina in a fortuitous way. Some residents are able to pick this up in their vehicles however it would be a struggle for most people to pick it up in their homes.

Boosting the existing signal would not be the best option as the capital cost, ongoing repairs and operating costs make it expensive for Council with no financial return.

The most cost effective option is to put a small 5 watt transmitter at a cost to Council (for the two FM Radio Stations) of approximately \$16K and include the installation of a computer, soundcard, receivers, combiner, antenna, satellite dish and 2 x transmitters to catch the signal of each radio station.

Depending on where the transmitter was located there could be additional costs including installation of power and rental fees if the location of the transmitters was not owned by Council.

Council would have to consider the on-going costs of electricity to the transmitter site and annual repairs and maintenance.

CONSULTATION:

Boosting of the existing Rebel and Breeze FM is not identified in the 2013/17 Delivery Program.

GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS:

No budget allocation in 2013/14 budget for the cost of installation (approx. \$16K) and annual on costs (approx. \$3K)

CONCLUSION:

Does Council consider the provision and upkeep of FM radio service, Councils core business?

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- 1. No decision be made about boosting FM radio services to the Brewarrina community until the community has been consulted; and**
- 2. Council include a question in the next Community Survey asking the community to rate how important the provision and upkeep of FM radio services to the Brewarrina Community.**

Rod Shaw
General Manager