

A transcript of 4ZZ-FM's opening statement read by John Woods at the start of 4ZZ's inaugural broadcast, which went to air at midday on 8th December 1975:

Hello friends in Sydney taking us through 2JJ as part of our first broadcast.

You are listening to 4ZZ-FM in Brisbane bringing you stereo FM rock on a frequency of 105.7 megahertz. 4ZZ-FM is Brisbane's first new radio station in over thirty years, and first ever stereo FM station.

4ZZ-FM is not only Queensland's first stereo FM station, it is also a public broadcasting station, non-commercial, and non-ABC, the product of the Labour Government's initiatives in the field of the media.

These initiatives have created a host of new stations, 2MBS-FM, 3MBS-FM, 2EA, 3EA, and expanded the role of 5UV, as well as giving a further twelve licenses to a number of institutions, one of which is 4ZZ-FM. As a result the Australian public is receiving a more diverse variety of program sources. All of the stations mentioned have proved enormously successful within the groups to which they have directed themselves.

The previous Government also allowed for the ABC to expand with the opening of the rock station 2JJ in Sydney and the access station 3ZZ in Melbourne. Similarly 2JJ and 3ZZ have met with unprecedented success and response from their respective audiences.

The creation of these new stations has finally widened the range of media in Australia which has the second highest concentration of media ownership in the western world. From their entrenched positions the powers behind the established media have already fired the first salvos at us through their organization, The Federation of Australian Commercial Broadcasters.

It is essential that as many people as possible have access to the media, and as radio is the cheapest and easiest way for people in groups to be heard, then it stands to reason that any new outlets should be able to perform a social function that commercial broadcasters cannot, and do not, want to perform. Fairness in broadcasting is not achieved by all stations seeking the lowest common denominator in programming, but by diversity.

While some people may not enjoy some of the material we put to air we certainly don't deny them the right to switch us off. To attempt to impose limitations or restrictions on public broadcasting is to seriously threaten a fundamental liberty, that of free speech. While it is easy to lapse into rhetoric in defense of free speech, we've been forced to make a stand and we intend to do so from the start. We see that freedom in danger of becoming hypothetical.

We now have a situation where the Post Master General issued a press statement to the effect that rumours circulating around the country with the twelve licenses granted to educational institutions have been delayed, were untrue. We finally received our license last week signed by the Post Master General, Mr. Peter Nixon.

In last Friday's Financial Review, the caretaker prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, was quoted as saying that he would like to see stations such as 2JJ and the ethnic stations encouraged. Then on Friday night, the Attorney General, Ivor Greenwood, said that if this caretaker Government attained legitimate power on December 13th, the new radio licenses will have to be looked into very closely and he seriously doubted their legality.

We consider that it is time for the coalition parties to accept the Labour Government's achievements as a fact of life and for them to formulate a coherent policy with regard to broadcasting.

And while we are waiting with the time at three and a quarter minutes past twelve, let's get down to some serious business from "Who's Next". This is The Who: "*Won't Get Fooled Again*".