



PROGRAMMING POLICY

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Drafted by	Reggie Lawless	Approved by Board on	<<insert date>>
Responsible person	General Committee Member	Scheduled review date	<<insert date>>

INTRODUCTION

RBM 89.1FM Mission Statement

To provide entertainment and information to the community and to support and interact with businesses, charities and non-profit organisations as well as social and creative groups in the Greater Blue Mountains Region with a view to protecting and preserving our culture and environment for past and future owners.

Core Values

1. Community focus
2. Opportunity and Access
3. Team Spirit

PROGRAMMING POLICY

1. RBM 89.1FM will present a diverse range of community radio programs consistent with the organisational Mission Statement (above) and audience profile.
2. Central to the Programming Policy is the need for RBM 89.1FM to meet the needs and desires of the Blue Mountains community, using the resources available at any given period.

Given that the current population of the broadcast area is estimated at over 80,000 people (2021), forecast to increase by 4,137 persons (5.26% growth) annually, the RBM Committee will adopt a decision making process that will include the following considerations when deciding on which programs will go to air, remain on-air or be taken off air;

Similar existing programs on metropolitan stations

Public demand

Equity related issues

Compatibility with existing station policy/direction

Resources - financial and human

Availability of time

Sponsorship (if applicable)

3. RBM 89.1FM programming will:

- a) provide entertainment, information and access for the local Blue Mountains community and the opportunity for the development of professional standards of program production and presentation.*
- b) explore local and worldwide areas of debate, information, music, sporting and cultural activities not adequately covered by other media;*
- c) encourage listeners to make their own informed and critical judgements;*
- d) cultivate an awareness and appreciation of all types of Australian music with particular emphasis on encouraging local performers.*

e) endeavour to reveal insights into the social, creative, and cultural aspects of the Blue Mountains community and society as a whole,

f) emphasise and encourage local and Australian content in terms of composition and production;

g) present a clear and identifiable station image.

4. The station will provide support for the wider community with programming which:

- a) increases awareness of local events and opportunities;
- b) involves members of the community;
- c) provides a wide range of topics and opinions

5. The station reserves the right to broadcast subject matter which some people might find offensive, if justified in context.

6. The station affords listeners the right of reply to programs, subject to negotiating with the station on an appropriate form of reply and time of broadcast.

7. RBM 89.1FM will observe all relevant laws, regulations and standards applicable to community broadcasting and adhere to the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's Codes of Practice.

On-Air Criteria

The Programming team will regularly (at least quarterly) review our overall programme schedule.

Our content that we put to air will always require amending as we reflect our ever-changing target market. For example, we may move certain “shows” to a time better suited for the target audience, introduce new or remove existing shows in line with our current marketing direction, or change the content or presenters of existing shows.

In addition, one of RBM 89.1FM’s key objectives is to provide a means for aspiring broadcasters from the local community to gain industry experience.

We therefore actively encourage members to become announcers and must be able to accommodate these new volunteers into our programme.

For the above to occur, we may need to ask current announcers to give up their slot for a period of time. This is simply to allow others to “have a go” and not necessarily a permanent change. We wish all announcers, current or past, to be active members of the organisation, and announcers that make way for others, and continue to contribute will be given preference when new slots become available.

The decision on who to ask to give up a show should the need arise will be based on (but not limited to) the following criteria (listed in no particular order of importance):

Compliance of current show to station policies, procedures and guidelines, including but not limited to:

Preparing and working to the run sheet template that has been approved by the Committee

Playing all required pre-recorded segments as per the run sheets (e.g. sponsor announcements)

Signing in and out of the studio each and every time

Following the RBM Covid-19 cleaning procedures and logging your actions

Submitting completed run sheet after each show

Evidence of continually seeking ways to improve the show

Evidence of prior preparation of the show

Attended fund-raising BBQ activities

Organised or assisted with a promotional event such as Outside Broadcast.
Participated in or led a committee meeting
Participated in activities of the committee for which member has volunteered
Contributed, in writing, to a grant application
Provided a sponsorship lead
Provided constructive feedback, in writing, to the Committee
Compliance to the Community Radio Codes of Practice
Organised for a local artist to play live or be interviewed at the studio
Contributed content to the RBM 89.1FM web site
Joined the RBM 89.1FM Facebook Presenters Page, and responded to RBM 89.1FM emails.
Assist in new initiatives as requested by the Board or a committee or sub-committee.
Pay membership fees on time.