

ABC broadcasts in FM Mono

ABC operates five different analog radio services at over 500 sites across Australia:

- ABC local radio
- triple j
- Radio National
- ABC Classic
- ABC NEWS radio

To deliver this content via analog radio, the ABC utilises both AM and FM services. For our music services, triple j and ABC Classic, these services are exclusively via FM. The other ABC services are delivered via a combination of AM and FM.

The ABC uses a mixture of technologies to deliver our content to transmitters due to the geographic spread of the transmitter sites. This includes fibre links, satellite, and the rebroadcast of services delivered from another site. Each of these have different features and constraints.

Fibre links

Fibre links between ABC studios and transmission sites provide the ABC the most flexibility to deliver the content in any format (stereo or mono). Most sites that utilise fibre links deliver stereo content to site for broadcast.

Satellite

Satellite distribution enables the ABC to deliver content to broadcast sites that are geographically dispersed. It is the most flexible distribution method when considering the distances between sites.

Satellite distribution of ABC content is constrained by the satellite bandwidth available to the ABC, which means stereo content is not always possible. In cases where ABC transmission sites deliver to both AM and FM sites, these constraints have in some cases led to mono being selected for satellite distribution, despite some transmission services being capable of stereo broadcast.

Retransmission of services delivered from another site

In the case of services that are retransmissions of the broadcast content from elsewhere, there is a technical limitation on the modulation that can be rebroadcast: if mono is received, mono must be rebroadcast.

Rebroadcast of services from another site is often the most cost-effective method of delivery content to site.