



Mark Boerebach
Picture: John Veage

Volume stays up on radio debate

By Deborah Field

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MARK Boerebach, 43, of Sutherland, is continuing to campaign for a commercial FM broadcasting licence despite there being no plans by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to change the way they are allocated.

A spokeswoman for the department said under the Broadcasting Services Act, the Australian Communications and Media Authority had no capacity to allocate commercial licences through a process other than a priced-based system [auction].

Mr Boerebach (pictured), who has Asperger's syndrome, wants to turn his online radio station 2prfm.com into a commercial FM station to provide advocacy and employment for people with disabilities.

He had asked the department to introduce a new class of radio broadcasting licence for people with disabilities.

Commercial FM radio broadcasting licences, especially in metropolitan markets such as Sydney, are highly sought-after.

The most recent FM radio licence auctioned in Sydney went to Smooth FM operator DMG Radio Australia in 2004 for \$106 million.

Mr Boerebach said licences should be granted on merit and need, rather than on who has "the deepest pockets".

Mr Boerebach has a talent for being able to instantaneously recall every hit song of the '70s and '80s.

This shot him to fame on the SBS quiz show Rockwiz.

See related story:

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/1749425/presenters-long-fight-for-fm-licence/>

Details: www.savesydneyradio.com