

## LICENCE GRANTS

### SUPPLEMENTARY FM RADIO

#### DENILIQIN

On 23 December 1992 the Minister for Transport and Communications referred an updated application for a supplementary FM radio licence from Rich Rivers Radio Pty Ltd, licensee of 2QN Deniliquin, to the ABA. The original application was lodged with the Minister in August 1984.

On 1 June 1993, the ABA decided to grant a supplementary FM radio licence to 2QN Deniliquin. A full account of the inquiry may be found in Report No. 93/1748.

#### MUSWELLBROOK

On 22 December 1992 the Minister for Transport and Communications referred an updated application for a supplementary FM radio licence from Radio Hunter Valley Pty Ltd, licensee of 2NM Muswellbrook, to the ABA. The original application by Hunter Broadcasters Pty Ltd was lodged with the Minister in September 1984.

On 1 June 1993, the ABA decided to grant a supplementary FM radio licence to 2NM Muswellbrook. A full account of the inquiry may be found in Report No. 93/0674.

Both of these inquiries proceeded under the *Broadcasting Act 1942* and associated *Australian Broadcasting Tribunal (Inquiries) Regulations 1986*. Although the Tribunal ceased to exist on 4 October 1992, these and certain other inquiries were preserved under s.12 of the *Broadcasting Services (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1992*.



### PUBLIC FM RADIO

#### BROKEN HILL

The ABA has granted a licence for a public FM radio service in Broken Hill. The licence was granted to the Broken Hill Community FM Association (BHCfMA) and is valid for a period of five years.

The BHCfMA had conducted a series of test broadcasts since 1989 in an effort to develop the service.

The ABA decision is explained in greater detail in Report No. 93/1747.

#### OME0

The ABA has granted a licence for a public FM radio service to serve Omeo, north-eastern Victoria. The licence was granted to the Omeo Shire Community Access Radio Incorporated (OSCAR) and is valid for a period of five years. OSCAR FM will serve a relatively isolated, mountain community, spread out over one of the largest shires in Victoria.

ABC Regional Radio is the only other local broadcasting service in the area.

Twelve test broadcasts have been conducted since 1986 in an effort to develop the service which will be particularly important for bush fire emergencies and for providing information on winter road conditions.

The ABA decision is explained in greater detail in Report No. 93/1744.

The new FM stations will provide a

range of music, local news and community information to meet the needs of listeners in each area,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Deputy Chairman. He said both the groups should be congratulated for the effort they put into applying for their licences.

While both groups were granted public radio licences under the *Broadcasting Act 1942*, these licences automatically became community radio licences after they were granted.

Both BHCfMA and OSCAR had to satisfy the ABA they had the management, technical and financial capabilities to provide an adequate and comprehensive service, and that they would encourage the participation of the local community in all aspects of the services' operation.

These requirements were in force when the inquiries began, but since the introduction of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, a different set of criteria has applied.

Community radio stations must provide a service in a way which does not significantly risk an offence against the Act or breach of the licence conditions.

Copies of all the above reports are available from the ABA on (02) 959 7811, price \$12.

