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### Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Services Act - General conditions

(Note: subject to moratorium on advertising and sponsorship in s.101.)

- A pre-election electoral blackout condition (cl.3).
- A requirement to announce particulars and keep a record of the person or company authorising the broadcast of political matter (cl.4).
- A requirement to keep recordings of political or current affairs broadcasts for a statutory period (cl. 5).
- Special rules relating to broadcast of advertisements regarding medicines (cl.6).

### Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Services Act - Special conditions relating to subscription television broadcasting in Part 6

- Prohibition on advertising tobacco products.
- Requirement to comply with applica-

ble program standards (note: there are at present no program standards applying to pay TV. The ABA may determine program standards where industry codes of practice fail or where no code of practice is developed).

- Requirement that articles of association contain certain provisions relating to ownership and control compliance.
- Requirement to allow access to airwaves by Minister in public interest.
- Anti-siphoning condition.
- Prohibition on 'X' rated or unclassified programs.
- Moratorium on 'R' rated programming till completion of ABA research on community standards and Parliamentary approval of broadcast of such programs.
- Prohibition on use of service in the commission of an offence.
- Requirement to remain a suitable licensee.
- Requirement that subscription fees will continue to be the predominant source of income.

## HOW MANY

BY: BOB GREENEY,

Have you ever wondered why there aren't more television services? On my television set and VCR tuner there are channels 0 to 69 - that's 70 channels - so why does the current plan only allow for six metropolitan-wide services? This short article attempts to explain why, without getting lost in all of the technical mystery.

### CHANNELS 0 TO 69

Look at your television guide. If you're in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth, it will show channels 2, 7, 9, 10 and 28. If you're in Newcastle it will show 3, 5A, 45, 48, 54 and 57 (ABC-TV broadcasts on both VHF-5A and UHF-48). In Nowra, the channels are 53, 56, 59, 62 and 65, while in Canberra the channels are 3, 7, 28, 31 and 34, (37). Ballarat has channels 6, 11, 30, 33, (36) and 39. I'll come back to channels 36 and 37 later.

In all cases, a sixth channel is planned for your area - it is generally the next UHF channel three channels above your highest existing UHF television channel, i.e. 31 in the capital cities, 60 or 68. So there seems to be lots of channels potentially available. Each channel occupies the standard Australian television channel width, 7 MHz.

The Very High Frequency (VHF) broadcasting bands run from 45 MHz to 230 MHz and contain channels 0 through to 12. (MHz stands for megahertz, and is a measure of the frequency in millions of cycles per second).

In the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) range, broadcasting bands run from 526 MHz to 820 MHz and contain 42 channels (channels 28 through 69 inclusive). That's a total of 55 channels, since channels 13 through to 27 do not exist, nor are there television broadcasting frequencies available between the VHF and UHF television bands. (This part of the spectrum is generally used for mobile radiocommunications such as two-way radio, garage door openers, radio remote control systems, etc.)

## SECOND DRAFT OF FREQUENCY ALLOTMENT PLANS

The ABA will release a second draft of its frequency allotment plans (FAPs) in September as part of its continuing consultation on planning.

This follows consideration of more than 150 submissions received in response to an initial exposure draft and feedback from technical workshops conducted in most capital cities.

The FAPs set out the number of radio and television channels to be made available in each geographic area and will be determined after the completion of public consultation.

ABA Chairman Mr Brian Johns said: 'We want to ensure that everyone has proper access to information so there is an informed public debate. The second draft is designed to achieve this aim'.

The first exposure draft identified radio and television channels already in

use or planned throughout Australia and sought comment on fundamental planning assumptions on which they were based.

There will be 30 days for public comment on the second draft after it is released. Following consideration of any further submissions, the FAPs will be finalised and published later this year.

The second exposure draft FAP will be sent to everyone who received the earlier draft or submitted comments.

In accordance with the planning provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, frequency allotment plans are being developed progressively to cover all parts of Australia and all portions of the broadcasting services bands for which the ABA is responsible (AM and FM radio and television bands).