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The ABA cannot allocate permanent community television licences on the sixth channel before a ministerial review of the television broadcasting industry, which must be conducted by July 1997.

The announcement follows earlier decisions by the ABA to make the sixth channel available to providers of open narrowcasting services for community and educational non-profit purposes in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Lismore.

The ABA can issue sixth channel licences in other areas of Australia, as demand arises.

APPLICATIONS

Groups wishing to use the sixth channel in areas other than Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Lismore or Brisbane, must apply for a radiocommunications transmitter licence.

Application forms for transmitter

licences are available from Ms Ann Bourne, ABA Planning Division, (06) 256 2635.

ACCESS STATEMENT

The ABA is committed to making available radiofrequency spectrum (the so called 'sixth channel'), for allocation to providers of open narrowcasting services for community and educational non-profit use.

In exercising its discretion to issue transmitter licences to applicants proposing to provide such services, the ABA will have regard to the extent to which the service will be accessible to individuals and relevant groups within the area to be served.

In considering the accessibility, the ABA will give consideration to the extent to which the applicant's constituting documents safeguard:

1. the level of openness or non-exclusivity in membership and membership policy;

2. the existence and fairness of any grievance mechanisms relating to membership exclusions;
3. the equity of access for members to programming airtime and the existence of structures including a grievance mechanism, designed to allocate airtime fairly;
4. the flexibility of programming policy and format sufficient to allow new sources of programming to be incorporated, and
5. the right of the community to take part in a range of activities involved in the operation and management of the service.

The ABA will further look to the constituting documents of the applicant (and any other material on which the applicant relies) for evidence of a consistency with the purposes for which the sixth channel has been or will be made available, that is, community and educational non-profit use.



CONFERENCE REPORT

THE FILMMAKER AND MULTIMEDIA CONFERENCE

6 - 9 OCTOBER 1993, AUSTRALIAN FILM TELEVISION AND RADIO SCHOOL

Multimedia is genuinely a new medium, not - as the name rather lamely suggests - some hybrid concoction of words, pictures and sounds, but a powerful new tool for describing the world. I believe it will drive our understanding of connections, processes, systems - the way the world works - faster and deeper than any existing media.

David Court in his keynote address to the multimedia conference recently held at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

A number of speakers at the conference reflected this view of the potential and nature of multimedia, suggesting alternative names such as immedia, unimedia and integrated media. Mark Richards from Animation Design Pty Ltd offered the following definition of this new application of technology: 'multimedia is a set of enabling technologies and ideas, which, if properly exploited, can deliver new opportunities, including but not restricted to, new occupations and markets, higher productivity, new ways of storytelling, better communications, and increased learning and comprehension'.

So what is a multimedia system? Bob Cotton and Richard Oliver in *Under-*

standing Hypermedia - from Multimedia to Virtual Reality (Phaidon, 1993) set out the requirements as being a means of display (a television set or special high resolution monitor and speakers); a form of storage medium such as a compact disc carrying images, text, animation, video and sound (and in the near future access to information banks through a fibre-optic network); and a means of interacting with and controlling the material displayed (e.g. a remote control or computer mouse).

The conference was presented by the Australian Film Commission (AFC) in conjunction with AFTRS. ABA staff, Deborah Sims and Neil Skinner, attended the conference which covered

developments in hardware, software used in multimedia and film production, interactivity, the role of federal agencies such as Department of Industry Technology and Regional Development and the AFC, copyright, delivery and distribution, future scanning and case studies and exhibitions of a number of training, educational, documentary and artistic multimedia projects.

A consistent theme throughout the conference was content and not the 'gee whiz' technology will capture the imagination of the world's information and entertainment consumers. Speakers encouraged filmmakers to contribute their skills to an area which, until

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Article	Issue/Month	Page
AUSTRALIAN CONTENT	NO.3/JAN93	4
An address by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman, to the Screen Production Association Annual Conference at Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday 26 November, 1993		
BORDERLESS MARKETS - KEY COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE	NO.12/OCT93	1
Paper presented by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman (in absentia) at 'Regulating the Converging Industries' Session International Institute of Communications Annual Conference, Mexico 21-23 September 1993.		
BROADCASTING SERVICES ACT	NO.2/DEC92	2
Address by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman, to the Melbourne University Faculty of Law Working with the Broadcasting Services Act Seminar on 7 November 1992.		
BROADCASTERS AND MARKET BEHAVIOUR	NO.9/JUL93	16
CHANGING CONTEXT OF BROADCASTING	NO.5/MAR93	16
Address by Janet Cameron, an independent radio operator, at ABA Corporate Plan Workshop.		
DEFINING AND PLANNING FOR DIVERSITY	NO.6/MAR93	16
A presentation given by Tim O'Keefe, ABA member, at the CLC 'Towards 2000' one day radio conference on 24 February 1993.		
IMPLICATIONS OF THE BROADCASTING SERVICES ACT, 1992	NO.6/APR93	12
Speech given by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman at the 4th International Telecommunications Law & Policy Conference on 24 February 1993.		
ON THE BROADCASTING SERVICES ACT	NO.1/NOV92	3
The text of a speech given by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman, at the Federation of the Australian Radio Broadcasters Annual Convention, 17-18 October 1992 in Melbourne.		
THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA	NO.11/SEP93	9
Speech by Senator Rosemary Crowley.		
REGULATION AND THE PORTRAYAL OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY: THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK	NO.9/JUL93	12
Peter Webb, ABA Deputy Chairman		
SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION BROADCASTING		
ABA ALLOCATES FIRST CABLE PAY TV LICENCES	NO.12/OCT93	2
The ABA allocated licences for pay TV broadcasting services to Paynet.		
ABA DEFERS PAY TV APPLICATIONS	NO.5/MAR93	1
ABA defers application capacity Pty Ltd for pay TV licences using MDS.		
ABA GUIDELINES ON AUSTRALIAN DRAMA FOR PAY TV	NO.4/FEB93	8
GUIDE TO SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICES	NO.5/MAR93	8
LICENSING OF SATELLITE PAY TV	NO.8/JUN93	10
ABA receives applications from highest bidders (UCOM and Hi Vision) and refers to TPC.		
MDS AND PAY TV	NO.6/APR93	9
NOTICES ISSUED TO UCOM	NO.8/JUN93	11
ONE PAY TV LICENCE REFERRED TO TPC	NO.12/OCT93	4
UCOM's application for satellite licence A referred to TPC		
Q & A - NON-SATELLITE SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICES OR CABLE TV	NO.12/OCT93	3
UCOM and HVISION SUITABLE	NO.10/AUG93	3
Bidders for satellite pay TV licences A and B found suitable. Have until 30 July to pay bids.		

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now, has tended to be dominated by people with a background in computing rather than storytelling.

The user is central to multimedia and interface design. The way users navigate or explore, interact with and control their experience of the world created within a multimedia environment, was another vital area that Sarah Bloomer, from The Hiser Consulting Group, felt could be enhanced by the

involvement of filmmakers.

A number of speakers suggested that multimedia could have both a positive and stimulatory effect on the documentary sector of the production industry. Ludwig Heinrich, from Brigalow Digital Publishing, urged documentary filmmakers to consider developing a multimedia version in addition to their traditional linear documentary. The considerable amount of source material collected, and painstaking research under-

taken, by documentary filmmakers in the process of creating a single film could then be made available in a non-linear access form which allowed greater exploration of the issue.

The conference closed with Gary Warner from the AFC scanning the future and exploring ways of interacting with multimedia via movement, gesture, sound and spoken language.