

ABA LICENSES 80 NEW TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICES

Tourists around Australia could soon be tuning in to 80 new low power radio services which will provide local information about sightseeing, restaurants and accommodation.

The ABA has issued 69 transmitter licences for tourist information services throughout Australia since the Broadcasting Services Act took effect on 5 October 1992. Another 11 licences were issued under the (previous) Broadcasting Act.

Low power services provide localised information such as tourist radio, parking advice for outdoors public events and commentary at sporting fixtures.

The services are licensed to use transmitters with a coverage of less than two kilometres in urban areas and up to ten kilometres in rural areas, where there is less chance of interference.

Low power services are generally licensed for 12 months. Licences cost between \$28 and \$139, depending on the strength of the transmitter being used.

'This honours our commitment made in December last year to licence low power information services quickly,' said Mr Colin Knowles, ABA Director of Planning.

'The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* has allowed far more streamlined arrangements when licensing information services, particularly low powered services,' he said.

Licences have been issued in each state and territory (see below). Contact details for business operators in your area are available from the ABA.

Licences have been issued in:

NSW

Albury, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Cessnock, Coffs Harbour, Goulburn, Katoomba, Kiama, Merimbula, Murwillumbah (Terranora), Murwillumbah (Sleepy Hollow), Narrabri, Port Macquarie, Richmond, Tamworth Taree, Wagga Wagga.

ACT

Canberra.

VIC

Ararat, Ballarat, Bellarine, Bright, Cobram, Echuca, Euroa, Hastings, Mornington, Nagambie, Rutherglen, Seymour, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Yarrowonga.

QLD

Babinda, Bundaberg, Caloundra, Daintree, El Arish, Hervey Bay, Ingham, Innisfail, Ivory Rock, Mackay, Malanda, Maryborough, Mount Isa, Prosperine, Sippy Downs, Yandina.

SA

Barossa Valley, Bordertown, Burra, Glenelg, Hahndorf, Innis, Murray Bridge, Penola.

WA

Albany, Broome, Carnarvon, Dongara, Exmouth, Geraldton, Geraldton North, Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Shark Bay.

NT

Alice Springs, Litchfield Park, Tennant Creek.

TAS

Hobart.

The ABA opened up new business opportunities for low power information services throughout Australia by releas-

ing spectrum in the FM radio broadcasting band on 1 December 1992.

Five channels were released on an interim basis until 31 January 1994. Their allocation will be reviewed after the ABA's detailed planning of the FM radio bands.

Technical conditions which apply to the use of low power channels are available from the ABA. It is up to operators to satisfy these conditions and avoid interference to other services.

Application forms and information about technical conditions are available from Ann Bourne (06) 256 2835 or Margaret Wattam (06) 256 2836, ABA Canberra.

HOW WILL LOW POWER SERVICES BE REGULATED?

These services are classified as open narrowcasting under the class licence system, which has been established to facilitate the emergence of a range of educational, business, ethnic, professional and other services. The system operates under the new which took effect from October last year.

Services under class licences are able to broadcast ads subject to any applicable conditions and can be required to observe licence conditions and codes of practice.

If you would like further information, the ABA has available a free *Guide for Service Providers under Class Licences*.

NEW ABA DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr Peter Webb has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Authority for the period 1 February 1993 to 4 October 1997.

The appointment is dated 22 January 1993.