

There are, as yet, no similar publications for television. Past planning has allowed for six television services throughout Australia - in some areas, five services are already available (three commercial, the ABC and the SBS). Section 28 of the Act limits the ABA from allocating more than three commercial television licences in any area of Australia before the Minister for Transport and Communications has completed a review of the television broad-

casting industry. The review must be completed before 1 July 1997. Despite that restriction, we are still interested in receiving your views about television services, whether they be services that you currently receive, or additional services that you may wish to receive.

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* is an important reference. Parts 2, 3 and 4 of this Act, which set out the categories of broadcasting services and the directions

the ABA must follow in relation to planning, are enclosed with this guide. Copies of the complete Act are available from Australian Government Bookshops.

If you need further assistance or clarification of matters concerning this guide, or other aspects of planning, you can contact the Planning Division of the ABA from anywhere in Australia by telephoning Freecall (008) 810241, or you can write to the Planning Division.



ABA NATIONAL PLANNING SEMINARS

The ABA held national seminars on radio planning in Sydney on 17 November, Melbourne on 19 November, Brisbane on 24 November, Adelaide on 2 December and Perth on 3 December.

In addition to the seminars, the ABA held separate meetings with members of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in the capital cities visited. If there is sufficient interest, similar radio seminars will be conducted in Hobart and Darwin early in the new year. Television seminars will be held toward the end of

the first quarter of 1993. At the seminars, ABA member Tim O'Keefe and Colin Knowles, Director, Planning Division, explained the planning principles which are set out in the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. Under this Act, the ABA will undertake planning as a public process. The ABA will determine priorities for planning between various parts of Australia and between AM radio, FM radio and television. The ABA's first task is to sort out these priorities sensibly through frank and open debate. On 7 December, the ABA called for public submissions about

these priorities. The notice calling for submissions and the information guide on the preparation of submissions are included in this edition of *ABA Update*. The new Act has generated many requests to the ABA to release spectrum for narrowcasting services such as tourist radio. It was emphasised during the seminars that the ABA wants to encourage the use of available frequencies for the new narrowly focused services, but that service providers have limited tenure on frequencies.



ALTERNATIVE USES OF THE BROADCASTING SERVICES BANDS

If broadcasting services bands spectrum is either reserved or available because it is not yet allocated for national, community or commercial television services, the ABA may decide to make available a part or parts of the available spectrum, for a specified period, for the purpose of temporary transmission, retransmission, open and subscription narrowcasting, subscription broadcasting or other services. This is provided for under s. 34 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. A number of deci-

sions have been made under s. 34 to make spectrum available for allocation.

RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS LICENSING USING THIS SPECTRUM

From its inception on 5 October 1992 to the period ending 30 November 1992, the ABA had issued three retransmission transmitter licences to groups to retransmit television services at Tallangatta, Howqua and Freeburgh in Victoria, six transmitter licences for the purpose of low power

tourist information services at Ingham, Babinda, Innisfail, El Arish, Daintree and Proserpine in Queensland, and 37 transmitter licences for temporary transmissions. Of the 37 temporary transmissions, 32 were issued to aspirant community broadcasters, and the remaining five issued for special event broadcasts at Canberra (ACT), Shark Bay (WA), Albury (NSW), Parramatta (NSW) and one to cover six regional locations in Victoria.

