

DRAFT PLANNING PRIORITIES

The ABA has released for public comment the exposure draft of its planning priorities to develop and improve broadcasting services in Australia.

ABA Chairman, Mr Brian Johns, said: 'This document represents our initial view of planning priorities after examining over 550 submissions. I would encourage people to comment on any issue. We will review the draft in the light of their feedback.'

The draft details 23 planning zones and their priority for planning over the next two and a half years. Mr Johns said this approach is necessary because planning the whole country cannot be done at the same time.

'The draft contains the reasons for planning some zones ahead of others. For example, high priority has been given to planning for new services in the currently inadequately served parts of Australia,' he said.

The ABA has also released draft frequency allotment plans (FAPs), setting out the number of radio and television channels available in each area.

'This document is part of the second stage of planning and sets the framework for detailed planning of future services in each zone. We are also asking for submissions on any aspect of the FAPs,' Mr Johns said.

Kits containing both drafts, and summaries of submissions received in response to a call on 7 December 1992, have been mailed to all submitters and other interested parties. Copies are available from the ABA on free-call (008) 81 0241.

Submissions on planning priorities should be made to the ABA before 28 May 1993, on the FAPs before 25 June 1993, and should be sent to: Director, Planning Division, PO Box 34, Belconnen ACT 2616.

ABA'S PLANNING SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

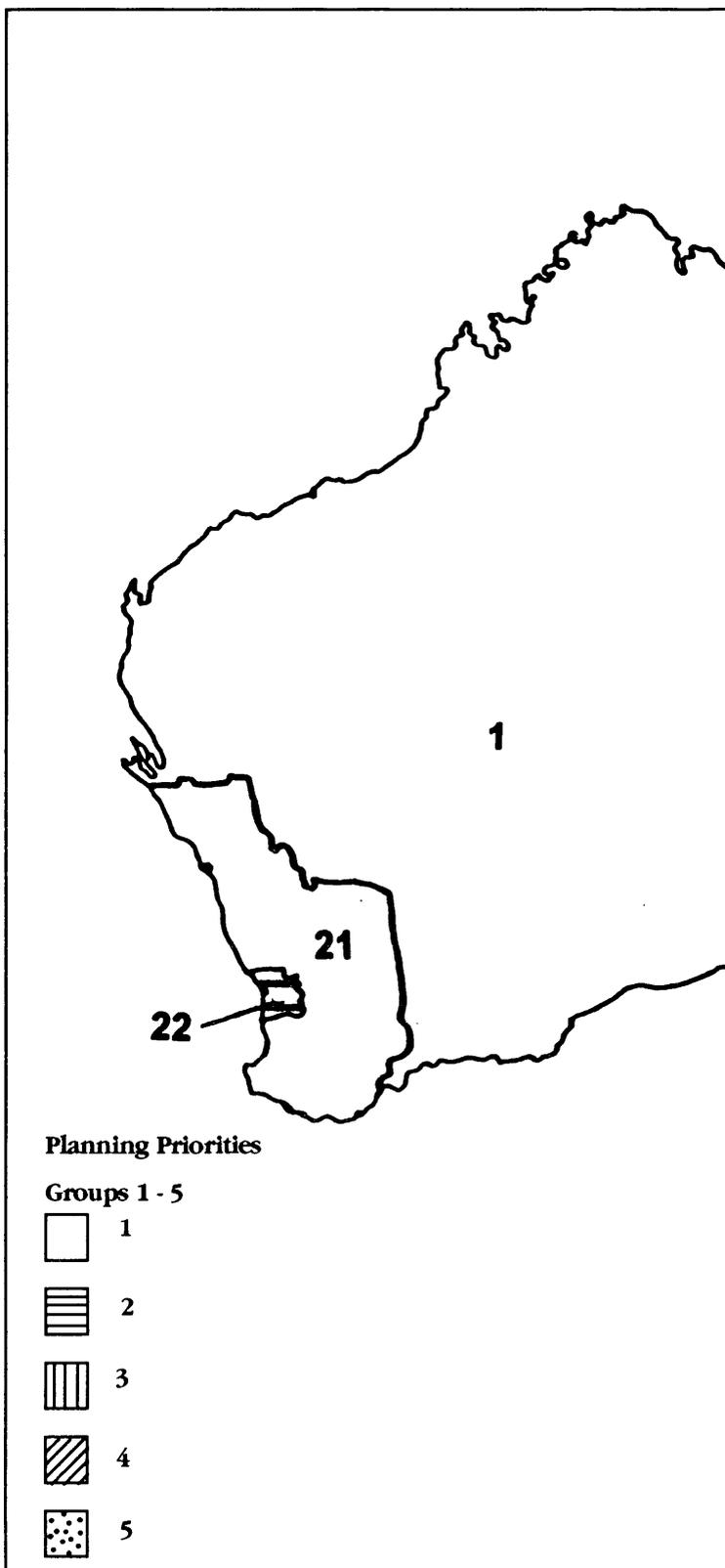
The ABA has held a series of public seminars and technical workshops during May to discuss planning priorities for radio and television. The seminars were held in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Issues covered in the draft documents were discussed at the seminars and the technical workshops covered related technical matters such as reception and propagation.

At the Melbourne seminar ABA Member, Mr Tim O'Keefe, said the seminars were designed to explain the planning process for radio and television.

'It's our responsibility to let the public know about the planning process. The ABA wants to let people have a say in developing and improving broadcasting services,' said Mr O'Keefe.

Mr O'Keefe said the timetable is a realistic one for the massive amount of work required, including visits by planning teams to talk to people throughout Australia about local issues.



GROUPS OF PLANNING ZONES

Group one: Planning to commence second half of 1993

Remote Australia
Central NSW
Central Victoria and Central Murray

Central and South West Western Australia
Darwin and Top End

Group two: Planning to commence first half of 1994

Northern Queensland
Albury, Shepparton, Wangaratta

Western Victoria
Spencer Gulf
Perth

Group three: Planning to commence second half of 1994

Central Coast Queensland
Darling Downs

Hunter and Northern NSW
Illawarra and South East NSW
South East South Australia

Group four: Planning to commence first half of 1995

Brisbane, Gold Coast & Richmond/Tweed
Sydney
Melbourne, Geelong and East Central
Adelaide

Group five: Planning to commence second half of 1995

Murrumbidgee
Gippsland
Northern Tasmania
Hobart and Southern Tasmania

PLANNING

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides for a three stage planning process for new services:

establishment of priorities for planning the provision of services;

preparation of **frequency allotment plans** to determine the number of channels to be available in particular areas of Australia to provide services that use the broadcasting services bands; and

preparation of **licence area plans** which determine the number and characteristics, including technical parameters, of the broadcasting services which are to be available in particular areas.

