

## ABA RELEASES DRAFT TECHNICAL PLANNING GUIDELINES

The ABA has released draft technical planning guidelines for all radio and television services using the broadcasting services bands.

'These guidelines will play a key role in the new planning and allocation process,' said ABA member, Mr Tim O'Keefe. 'We will now consult with the peak bodies representing members of the broadcasting industry, as well as key government agencies. We would also like to hear from interested members of the public.'

The ABA will take into account all the comments received through consultation before issuing the guidelines in final form later this year.

The ABA is required to develop

written guidelines for technical planning of individual services using the broadcasting bands as a means of delivery. The guidelines include emission standards and maximum field strengths.

Under the Radiocommunications Act, the guidelines form part of the licence conditions on transmitter licences issued to commercial or community broadcasters. Holders of these licences have to comply with the guidelines and not cause interference to other users.

The guidelines have been developed from the planning parameters and standards used by the former Department of Transport and Communications and by industry prior to the establishment of the ABA in October 1992.

In the coming year the ABA expects to publish a companion volume to the guidelines, the *Australian Broadcasting Planning Handbook*.

Any people or organisations who wish to provide written comments may request a copy of the draft technical planning guidelines from the ABA by telephoning freecall (008) 810 241.

Written comments should reach the ABA by Wednesday 31 August 1994 and be sent to:

Director Engineering,  
Planning Branch,  
Australian Broadcasting Authority,  
PO Box 34  
Belconnen ACT 2616.



## ABA ALLOCATES CABLE PAY TV LICENCES

The ABA has allocated licences for pay TV broadcasting services to NRS Group Pty Ltd (NRS), Wright Weller Rosenblum Pty Ltd (WWR), Access Cable Television Ltd (Access) and Star Vision Pty Ltd (Star Vision).

The ABA allocated 13 pay TV broadcasting licences to NRS, 10 to WWR, 110 to Access and 30 to Star Vision.

Star Vision's application indicated it intends to deliver its services Australia-wide via cable. Star Vision is a subsidiary of Australis Media Limited. Access has indicated that it intends to deliver its pay TV services, via cable, to 20 country centres in New South Wales.

WWR intends to deliver its services by cable to Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Wollongong, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Launceston.

'The ABA examined the shareholding structure of these companies and found they each complied with the foreign ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Services Act,' said Mr Brian Johns, ABA Chairman. 'In addition, the ABA found no reason to regard the companies as unsuitable to be allocated

pay TV licences.'

Multiple licences were sought by the companies as the Broadcasting Services Act requires a separate licence for each service. The ABA takes a service to be a single stream of programming material.

The ABA has issued a total of 343 subscription television broadcasting services pursuant to section 96 of the Broadcasting Services Act. The other licence holders are Access Cable Television (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd (four licences), Cable Television Services Pty Ltd (20 licences), Dergat Pty Ltd (four licences), Home Show Cable Australia Pty Ltd (20 licences), Multicom Australia Pty Ltd (35 licences), Pacific Media Telecommunications Pty Ltd (18 licences), Paynet Telecommunications Pty Ltd (eight licences), Premier Cable Australia Pty Ltd (43 licences) and Rowcom Holdings Pty Ltd (28 licences).

### **SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION BROADCASTING LICENCES**

Section 96 of the Broadcasting Services Act allows the ABA to allocate subscription television broadcasting licences

delivered by means other than satellite.

Unlike transmitter licences or other service delivery permits, these licences do not have geographical limitations. Therefore, a service licence is valid throughout Australia as long as the programming on that service is the same in all areas of reception. Where the service differs in a location, a separate service licence is required.

The current prohibition on licensing a pay TV broadcasting service dependent on an MDS system as its means of transmission, or as a part of its means of transmission, does not extend to services using cable as a means of delivery.

The ABA must not allocate a licence for an MDS delivered pay TV broadcasting service before the commencement of satellite broadcasting services under licence A, B or C. This prohibition ceases to have effect on 31 December 1994.

Apart from licences A, B and C, the ABA must not allocate a licence that uses satellite as a means of service delivery before 1 July 1997.

