

LAP TEAM C

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* identifies three stages in the planning process: determination of planning priorities; preparation of a frequency allotment plan (FAP); and preparation of licence area plans (LAPs).

Following wide public consultation which is undertaken in each stage of this planning process, the ABA determined its priorities for planning radio and television services in all areas of Australia in September 1993, and the FAP was completed in August 1994. The third stage of the planning process, the preparation of LAPs commenced in October 1993.

LAPs are being developed by three teams - A, B and C.

Before July 1994, in addition to being responsible for the development of LAPs, all three teams were responsible for non-LAP work such as: applications from aspirant community broadcasters requiring licences for temporary transmissions; applications for low power open narrowcasting information services; applications for test transmissions and special events; applications from

ices for Griffith and the MIA (NSW), Spencer Gulf and Mount Gambier (SA). In addition, Team C engineers will be developing technical specifications for the remote areas of SA, NSW and Victoria to assist Team A, which has the responsibility for developing the LAPs for all remote areas throughout Australia.



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Each team comprises a mixture of engineering and administrative staff headed by a manager. In Team C one of the members takes on the role of coordinator, which is rotated on a regular basis.

The recently released draft LAPs for radio and television services in the Riverland (SA), are the first LAPs to be prepared. The document was produced by members of Team C and is being used as a model for other LAP teams to follow. The complication of the presence of a channel 3 television service in the area, as well as channel 4 in neighbouring Spencer Gulf North, both of which restrict the availability of FM channels for additional radio services in the Riverland, posed a challenge to the engineers who had to find suitable frequencies for new radio services.

small communities wishing to set up self-help facilities to obtain improved reception of radio and/or television services; assignment of frequencies for national radio and television services; and technical planning for new radio services licensed under the previous Broadcasting Act. Team C had responsibility for non-LAP broadcasting planning in Tasmania, South Australia and in most of NSW. Team C recently lost two members, Elizabeth Allinson and Peter Dickinson, to a new fourth team, Team S, which is now responsible for all non-LAP work. Teams A, B and C are now totally dedicated to planning for the development of licence area plans.

Other LAPs for which Team C is responsible include those for radio and television services for Broken Hill (NSW) and Mildura (Vic), and television serv-

PLANNING CONSULTATION

In determining the order in which radio and television services in all areas of Australia would be planned, the ABA divided the country into planning zones and arranged them into five priority groups. Highest priority was given to Remote Australia, Darwin and the Top End, and Central and South West Western Australia (excluding Perth) for radio services, and to those areas of Australia which currently have access to only one commercial television service. These are Darwin, Remote North East, Remote Central, Remote Western, Mount Isa, Griffith (MIA), Mildura, Broken Hill and Spencer Gulf, Renmark/Loxton/South East South Australia, South West and Great Southern Western Australia,

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Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie. LAPs for these areas will be released later this year and licence area plans for all parts of Australia will be released in stages up until mid 1996.

As part of the consultation process, visits to various centres within the planning zones were arranged. Prior to these visits, the team compiled zone information booklets which contained information about existing and approved broadcasting services in each area. The booklets produced by Team C were Remote New South Wales; North Western Victoria and Victorian High Country; Remote and Regional South Australia; and Griffith and the MIA. The booklets were sent out to existing licensees and aspirant broadcasters, shire councils, libraries, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and members of various community groups, and they were also made available at the public meetings. Prior to the visits, notices appeared in local newspapers advertising the details of the public meeting to be held in the area and inviting submissions.

MEETINGS

Team C visited and conducted meetings in Griffith, Leeton, Broken Hill, Bourke, Cobar (NSW); Mildura (Vic); Berri, Port Lincoln, Whyalla Norrie, Port Pirie and Mt Gambier (SA). The purpose of these meetings was to inform the public about the planning process and to listen to opinions on how planning of radio and television could be improved in these areas. Interviews were held with radio and television broadcasters, so the viewers and listeners in those particular areas were aware of the purpose and objectives of the meetings.

The team is now in the process of analysing the hundreds of the submissions received for all Team C LAP areas. A major tool in this analysis is a database application developed by a member of Team C, which is now being used by all other LAP teams.

Team C expects to commence preparing and developing a LAP for Central NSW towards the end of this year.



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

THE ABA LIBRARY ALLOWS PUBLIC ACCESS TO ITS COLLECTION DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS. HOWEVER, BORROWING IS NOT PERMITTED. THE FOLLOWING BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THE RANGE OF NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY. THESE NOTES ARE INDICATIVE OF SUBJECT MATTER, BUT ARE NOT INTENDED AS CRITICAL COMMENT OR REVIEW.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS 1994

Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1994

Australian Social Trends is a new report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which provides a statistical profile of contemporary Australian Society and monitors changes in social conditions over time. It comprises 37 analytical topics focusing on: population, families, housing, health, work, income, education and religion. The report presents both statistical and informed comment on the issues. The publisher intends to publish a new edition each year maintaining continuity of data and featuring specialist topics. The report is also intended to stimulate discussion, debate and further research into the directions Australian society is taking.

BROADCASTING ENTERS THE MARKETPLACE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 24TH UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM.

Edited by Nod Miller and Rod Allen.

This 1993 symposium brought together practitioners and academics to study and explore the changes which have taken place in British broadcasting as a result of the Thatcher legislation, the *Broadcasting Act 1990*. It also looked to future implications for news, regional television, technology, independent production and viewer choice as public service principles and market forces battle it out in the current broadcasting environment. The keynote speaker, Tim Renton, MP, described some of the changes that went into the *Broadcasting Act of 1990*, and details the areas in which he concedes the legislation was inadequate. The proceedings of the symposium are intended to provide a broad view of the

state of contemporary debate about broadcasting policy. As well as providing a useful historical record, the report is a valuable resource for those wishing to engage in further debate on the issues raised.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW

David B Winn. London: Graham & Trotman, 1994

This work contains the substantive international law which regulates the broadcasting, film, music and publishing industries, and European Community law relating to freedom of movement of goods, freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services, competition law and fundamental human rights. Included are community directives affecting advertising, broadcasting, copyright and neighbouring rights, computer software and film services. Terms and conditions of the EC's MEDIA program are outlined. Six international treaties governing copyright and neighbouring rights are synthesised. There is also a detailed statement of international principles determining the rights and liabilities flowing from terrestrial, cable and satellite transmissions.

GLOBAL TELEVISION: HOW TO CREATE EFFECTIVE TELEVISION FOR THE FUTURE

Tony Verna: edited by William T. Bode. Boston: Focal Press, c1993

There are two main themes in this book: the conception, development, production and distribution of a globalcast; and the development of media convergence and how convergence will affect not only global television but all forms of communication. The author's aim is to open the elec-