



Australian
Broadcasting
Authority

SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION BROADCASTING OPERATORS GROUP

The Confederation of Australian Subscription Television (CAST), an industry association representing subscription television has been formed. The first meeting of CAST was held in April 1994.

The Chairman of CAST is Mr Neil Gamble, Chief Executive Officer of Australis. Membership comprises most of the licensed subscription television operators, including the three satellite licensees and those operators licensed under section 96 of the Broadcasting Services Act.

At present CAST is drafting its mission statement, as well as working on the association's codes of practice, as required under section 123 of the Act.

The ABA and CAST will be meeting over the next few months to discuss issues such as the licence conditions the ABA must impose on subscription television broadcasting licences.

These conditions are intended to ensure that:

- domestic reception equipment used by each satellite subscription television broadcasting licensee is accessible by other satellite broadcasting services;
- where a licensee has a subscriber management system, access to that system is provided at a fair price to other satellite subscription television broadcasting licensees;
- licensees make available, as an option, domestic reception equipment on a rental basis; and
- where non-satellite subscription television licensees rent domestic reception equipment to a consumer, the rental agreement must allow the consumer to terminate the agreement on giving one month's written notice to the licensee.



NEW DX BOX NO.

The ABA has a new DX box number:

DX Box 13012

MARKET STREET SYDNEY

BRIEFING NOTES

AM RADIO CHANNELS

The ABA has announced it will be offering a number of currently unused high power AM radio channels for open narrowcasting purposes. See p.2

SIPHONING

The ABA presented a report on its investigation into which television events should remain free to the general public, to the Minister for Communications and the Arts, the Hon. Michael Lee, on 13 May. See p. 3

AUSTRALIAN CONTENT IN ADVERTISING

This report presents an overview of the commercial television networks' compliance with Television Program Standard 23 during its first two years of operation. See p. 6

DIGITAL COMPRESSION— EVOLUTION OF A STANDARD

The standard for a full digital transmission system has been developed and agreed by both pay TV licences holders A and B. The standard is to be used by all satellite subscription television broadcasting licensees. See p. 10

CABLE PAY TV LICENCES

The ABA has allocated 35 licences to Multicom Australia Pty Ltd, bringing the number of pay TV licences issued to 166. See p. 12

DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING: CONSUMER ISSUES

This paper looks at consumer issues surrounding the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting. See p. 13

TOWARDS A WORLD CLASS COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS

The opening address by Michael Lee, Minister for Communications and the Arts at the ATUG conference in early May. The paper looks at the future for telecommunications. See p. 20

CONVERGENCE AND CULTURE

The address by Brian Johns, ABA Chairman, to the ATUG conference. The paper discusses programming, culture and the potential for international agreements. See p. 22

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