



No outer limit for TV marketplace

JAKARTA: The regulation of television can no longer be a domestic preoccupation alone, Mr Peter Webb, Deputy Chairman of the ABA said on December 8.

'Television delivery is now ubiquitous, effortlessly crossing national boundaries. An international dimension has been added and the responsibility of regulators everywhere is to cooperate with others,' he said.

Mr Webb was addressing a seminar on 'Television Development in the Asia-Pacific Region', organised by the Indonesian Department of Information and the Singapore-based Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre.

Regulatory co-operation, in the form of information exchange, training, agency arrangements and secondment is already taking place, Mr Webb said. The ABA expects to conclude formal memoranda of understanding with its counterparts in the USA, Canada and the UK next year, with others to follow.

'These arrangements, together with educational and information strategies will not only serve to minimise inadvertent problems, but will make clear what is acceptable on a country by country basis,' he said.

With the introduction of an 'open skies' policy on satellite broadcasting in Australia from 1 July 1997, Mr Webb outlined details of the ABA's strategy for informing would-be satellite operators and broadcasters about Australian laws.

'Broadcasters have freely entered into discussions with the ABA about their plans. Satellite operators have undertaken to pass on to their clients information about Australia's regulatory scheme and some of those responsible for licensing operators have indicated a preparedness to co-operate with the ABA,' he said.

Governments have also been very responsible in this area too, Mr Webb said, citing the example of Hong Kong, which has passed legislation which requires satellite broadcasters uplinking from the colony to respect the program regulations and sensibilities of the countries they broadcast into.



For a full copy of Mr Webb's speech to the 'Television Development in the Asia-Pacific Region' seminar and accompanying paper, contact Melanie Parker on (02) 334 7802.

Central Coast Cablevision gets pay TV licences

SYDNEY: The ABA has allocated ten licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services to Central Coast Cablevision Pty Limited (Cablevision).

Cablevision has indicated that it intends to deliver its pay TV services via cable to the Central Coast region of New South Wales.

The licences have been allocated on the basis of one licence per proposed service. The ABA takes a service to be a single stream of programming material.

'The ABA examined the shareholding structure of the company and found it 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 company as being unsuitable to be allocated pay TV licences'.

Current holders of cable pay TV licences are: Access Cable Television Limited (110 licences); Access Cable TV (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd (4); Cable Television Services Pty Ltd (20); Central Coast Cablevision Pty Limited (10); Dergat Pty Ltd (4); Explorer Channel Pty Ltd (1); Home Show Cable Australia Pty Ltd (20); Multicom Australia Pty Limited (35); NRS Group Pty Ltd (13); Oberon Broadcasters Pty Ltd (10); Pacific Media Telecommunications Pty Ltd (18); Paynet Telecommunications Pty Ltd (8); Premier Cable Australia Proprietary Limited (43); Prime Media Developments Pty Ltd (45); Private Cable Network Pty Limited (34); Rowcom Holdings Pty Ltd (28); Star Vision Pty Limited (30); Visitor Publishing Group Pty Ltd (2); Wright Weller Rosenblum Pty Ltd (10).

Progress on technical planning guidelines

The ABA's Planning Branch received more than twenty submissions and comments in response to the *Draft Technical Planning Guidelines* issued in August 1994.

The comments are being reviewed and, because of the significance of some of these, consideration is being given to publishing a revised edition of the draft guidelines.

One of the most significant changes to the