



News Update

high powered channel (the so called sixth channel) available. The existing five channels are being used by the two national broadcasters (ABC and SBS) and three commercial services.

The ABA cannot allocate permanent community television broadcasting licences on the UHF or VHF television bands until options for the use of the sixth channel have been considered.

Consequently, the ABA has made channels available for open narrowcasting television services for community and educational non-profit purposes on a temporary basis, to allow a trial of community television.

Open narrowcasting licences for NW Western Australia

SYDNEY: The ABA has finalised its licence area plan for radio in the Carnarvon, Karratha and Port Hedland region of Western Australia. Channels have been made available for open narrowcasting services at Carnarvon, Dampier, Exmouth, Karratha, Onslow, Paraburdoo, Port Hedland, Roebourne and Tom Price.

'The decision to make the channels available follows interest expressed by the TAB of Western Australia. The channels will be allocated via an auction later this year and anyone will be able to bid for the licences,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

During April and May, additional commercial radio licences were issued to the licensees of 6LN Carnarvon, 6KA Karratha and 6NW Port Hedland. They have 12 months to get their new services up and running. The new commercial services will operate on the FM radio band.

No submissions were received from organisations in these areas indicating that a local community radio group had been formed to provide a community radio service.

'The ABA's role is to identify vacant broadcasting channels and decide the number and type of new services and licences to make available for allocation. We cannot fund or make others fund new radio services.'

The plan does not include television services. A plan for television services will be released later this year.

Details of the radio licence area plan for Carnarvon, Karratha and Port Hedland are available for viewing at public libraries in these towns as well as Exmouth and Onslow, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling freecall 1800 810 241.

ABA allocates pay TV licences

SYDNEY: The ABA has allocated 100 licences to Optus Vision Media Pty Ltd (Optus Vision Media) and 20 licences to Foxtel Cable Television Pty Ltd (Foxtel) for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services.

Optus Vision Media has indicated it intends to deliver the services via cable in Australian towns.

'The ABA examined the share holding structure of the companies and found they both complied with the foreign ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Services Act,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The following table lists all non-satellite pay TV broadcasting licences issued by the ABA.

| Licence holder | No. of licences |
|--|-----------------|
| Access Cable Television Ltd | 110 |
| Access Cable TV (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd | 4 |
| Cable Television Services Pty Ltd | 20 |
| Cable Network Services Pty Ltd | 50 |
| Central Coast Cablevision Pty Ltd | 54 |
| CFM Television PTY LTD | 1 |
| Cosmovision Cable Television Pty Ltd | 50 |
| Cox Media Pty Limited | 56 |
| CVC Pay TV Pty Ltd | 20 |
| Dergat Pty Ltd | 4 |
| Explorer Channel Pty Ltd | 1 |
| Graff Pay-Per-View (Australia) Pty Ltd | 10 |
| Home Show Cable Australia Pty Ltd | 20 |
| Interactive Telecommunications Network Ltd | 150 |
| Mudgee Cable Company Pty Ltd | 60 |
| Multicom Australia Pty Ltd | 35 |
| Neighborhood Cable Pty Ltd | 72 |
| Northgate Cable Television Pty Ltd | 150 |
| NRS Group Pty Ltd | 13 |
| Oberon Broadcasters Pty Ltd | 10 |
| Optus Vision Media PTY LTD | 100 |
| Pacific Media Telecommunications Pty Ltd | 18 |
| Paynet Telecommunications Pty Ltd | 8 |
| Planet Pay TV Pty Ltd | 20 |
| PPV TV Pty Ltd | 20 |
| Premier Cable Australia Pty Ltd | 43 |
| Prime Media Developments Pty Ltd | 45 |
| Private Cable Network Pty Ltd | 102 |
| Rowcom Holdings Pty Ltd | 28 |
| Selectra Pty Ltd | 50 |
| Star Vision Pty Ltd | 50 |
| Vinatech Pty Ltd | 50 |
| Visitor Publishing Group Pty Ltd | 2 |
| Wright Weller Rosenblum Pty Ltd | 10 |
| Total | 1436 |