



News Update

New commercial radio licence

SYDNEY: The ABA has allocated a second commercial radio licence to Ace Radio Broadcasters Pty Ltd, owner of 3SH, which will broadcast its new service 3SHI on FM 107.7 MHz in Swan Hill.

'This new FM licence should result in a distinctly different service in the Swan Hill market,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The fee for the licence was \$10 000. Ace Radio Broadcasters now has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

The ABA has now allocated 42 commercial radio licences to operators in single service markets this year.

The ABA has allocated in Albany, Armidale, Ballarat, Bathurst, Bega, Carnarvon, Charleville, Charters Towers, Colac, Cooma, Darwin, Dubbo, Emerald, Esperance, Griffith, Goulburn, Gunnedah, Gympie, Horsham, Innisfail, Inverell, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Lithgow, Longreach, Mandurah, Merredin, Mildura, Mt Gambier, Mudgee, Nambour, Northam, Orange, Parkes, Port Hedland, Queenstown, Renmark, Roma, Taree, Wangaratta and Young.

Regional approach to Internet content labelling

SINGAPORE: The Chairman of the ABA, Mr Peter Webb, has called for a regional approach to the labelling of content on the Internet.

'One can think of few areas more suitable to be the subject of regional regulatory cooperation than the development of an Internet labelling system that will be suitable for the communities of the Asia-Pacific,' Mr Webb said.

Mr Webb was addressing the ASEAN Regulators Forum on the Internet in Singapore.

The Platform for Internet Content Selection (PICS) standard presents an opportunity to develop a scheme which can be used to identify on-line content which is inappropriate. It offers a classification structure for the Internet which is value neutral, Mr Webb said.

'The work being done by bodies such as the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSAC) to produce (in conjunction with PICS) an Internet-relevant labelling system constitutes a tremendous contribution to the task of helping Internet users, including parents and teachers, handle the issues the system deals with.

'The task for all of us, and I include Australians in this, will be to take the solid

foundations provided by PICS and RSAC and see whether we can build on those foundations a structure for Internet labelling which will accommodate our values.'

Applications sought for community radio licence in Ceduna

SYDNEY: The ABA has called for applications for a community radio broadcasting licence in the Ceduna area of South Australia.

'This is the first community radio broadcasting licence to be offered in Ceduna. The licence will be allocated under the ABA's new merit based allocation system,' said ABA Chairman Mr Peter Webb.

Under the ABA's system, in areas where there is only one applicant for a community broadcasting licence, the ABA need only decide if the applicant merits a licence. When there is more than one applicant, the ABA may also have to choose on the basis of comparative merit. Alternatively, applicants could combine to present a unified application.

For information about how to apply for a community broadcasting licence, call the Allocations and Renewals Section on (02) 9334 7700.

Applications for the licences close at 5.00 pm Monday 11 November 1996.

ABA seeks submissions on radio services in Lightning Ridge

SYDNEY: The ABA would like to hear from people in the Lightning Ridge area of New South Wales about the prospect of a local community radio service.

'The ABA has been notified that Lightning Ridge Community Radio Inc. would like to provide a locally based community radio service. This seems to be a good opportunity for a local community radio service in Lightning Ridge,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

In February 1996 the ABA published a discussion paper for radio and television services for *Remote Central and Eastern Australia*. This planning zone includes the Bourke region of which Lightning Ridge is a part.

In that discussion paper, the ABA proposed to make channels available for a new community radio service in Bourke, with transmitters for the service at Lightning Ridge, Walgett and