

The ABA is inviting applications for 84 new open narrowcasting radio services to serve regional areas across Australia's mainland, and one new open narrowcasting television service for Darwin.

ABA invites applications for open narrowcasting licences

The ABA has invited applications for 84 new open narrowcasting radio services to serve regional areas in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. For a full list of the areas in which applications for licences are invited; see tables.

The ABA has also called for applications for one new open narrowcasting television service, for Darwin.

The ABA has set a reserve price of \$4000 for each of the licences. Applicants for licences must pay a non-refundable application fee of \$900 for each licence they apply for. Applications for the licences will close at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 29 November 1996.

Auctions for the licences are expected to be held at the ABA's Sydney offices in December 1996.

What are open narrowcasting services?

Open narrowcasting services are broadcasting services whose reception is limited in at least one of a number of ways specified in the Act:

- ¥ by being targeted to special interest groups;
- ¥ by being intended for limited locations (e.g. arenas or business premises);
- ¥ by being provided during a limited period or to cover a special event;
- ¥ because they provide programs of limited appeal; or
- ¥ for some other reason.

Open narrowcasting services operate under the class licence provisions of the Act. Class licences are not individually issued, but are a standing authority for any operator to enter the market and provide a service, as long as the operator has access to delivery capacity and abides by the conditions applicable to the relevant category of class licence.

Class licence service providers who wish to use the broadcasting services

bands part of the radiofrequency spectrum must apply to the ABA for a transmitter licence to operate their service.

What is a transmitter licence?

A transmitter licence is a form of apparatus licence issued under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (Radocom Act). It authorises the licensee to operate a radiocommunications transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence.

The ABA issues transmitter licences under delegation from the Spectrum Management Agency (SMA) to services which use the broadcasting services bands.

How will transmitter licences for open narrowcasting services be issued?

Section 106 of the Radiocommunications Act provides for the determination of a price-based allocation system for issuing specified transmitter licences. Under the Radcom Act, the system must be determined by the SMA although it will be implemented by the ABA.

Subject to the terms of the price-based system, applicants for specified transmitter licences will bid for the licences in public, auction-style, licence allocation exercises.

The price-based system is governed by the *Radiocommunications (Issue of Broadcasting (Narrowcasting) Transmitter Licences) Determination* (the Determination).

How do I apply for a licence?

To apply for a licence under the Determination, applicants must complete an

application form and a form of indemnity and guarantee. The form of indemnity and guarantee must be completed and executed by the applicant and by a director or office bearer (as appropriate) of the applicant. Each application must be accompanied by an application fee of \$900. A separate application must be lodged for each licence applied for. The application fee is non refundable.

If the applicant is a company or an incorporated association, it will also be required to complete a form of authority which authorises agents to act on the applicant's behalf at a particular licence allocation exercise. Applicants who are individuals may authorise an agent to represent them.

The ABA will invite applications for specified transmitter licences in newspaper advertisements in the area where the licences are available.

Applications will generally be invited for transmitter licences only after a licence area plan has been prepared by the ABA for the relevant licence area.

Licence area plans are being prepared progressively for all of Australia, in accordance with the planning priorities established by the ABA.

Who may apply for a licence?

Any person may apply for a transmitter licence to provide an open narrowcasting service.

How will the price-based allocation system operate?

If the ABA registers more than one application for an advertised licence, the registered applicants will bid for the licence at a licence allocation exercise to be held at a time and place to be specified by the ABA.

A licence will be issued to the highest bidder (the 'nominated applicant'), sub-

ject to the price bid reaching the published reserve price for the licence.

The nominated applicant will be required to pay a deposit of 10 per cent of the price bid for the licence immediately following completion of the relevant licence allocation exercise.

Full payment for the licence (price bid less the deposit) must be made by the nominated applicant by 4 p.m. on the day following the relevant licence allocation exercise.

The licence will be issued to the nominated applicant provided that the other requirements of the Determination, including payment of the price of the licence, are met. The ABA must not issue a licence to an applicant unless the spectrum has been made available for allocation by the ABA under s. 34(1) of the Act.

After a licence is issued, the ABA will publish the successful applicant's name,

the amount paid for the licence and the channel allocation.

What if there is only one applicant for a licence?

If there is only one applicant for a licence, a licence allocation exercise will not be held. The applicant for the licence will be issued the licence for the reserve price, subject to the requirements of the Determination being met.

Commencement of services

The licensee, or any person authorised by the licensee to operate a radiocommunications transmitter under the licence, must commence the open narrowcasting service within six months of being issued the licence or within a

longer period as notified in writing by the ABA.

How can I obtain more information?

Anyone interested in applying for any of the available licences must purchase an information package titled *Price-based Allocation of Transmitter Licences for Open Narrowcasting Services* from the ABA. The cost of the package is \$40.

The information package explains how to apply for a licence, provides technical specifications about the services for which licences are available, and contains copies of the forms to be completed by intending applicants.

The package also contains details of the price-based system under which the licences will be issued, and conditions which apply to the licences. ☐

Transmitter licences available for open narrowcasting services

television

State	Licence area plan	Location	Channel
Northern Territory	Darwin & Katherine	Darwin (NT)	UHF 64

radio

State	Licence area plan	Location	Frequency		
Northern Territory	Darwin & Katherine	Darwin	102.5 MHz		
		Darwin City	92.3 MHz		
		Darwin East	90.7 MHz		
		Darwin North	91.5 MHz		
		Katherine	96.5 MHz		
	Alice Springs	Alice Springs	107.1 MHz		
		Tennant Creek	104.5 MHz		
		Yulara	105.3 MHz		
		Victoria	Mildura/Sunraysia	Mildura	135.9 MHz
				New South Wales	Broken Hill
Broken Hill	105.3 MHz				
Queensland	Remote central & eastern Australia	Balranald	95.5 MHz		
		Balranald	97.1 MHz		
		Alpha	100.7 MHz		
	Remote central & eastern Australia	Birdsville	101.3 MHz		
		Charleville	103.3 MHz		
		Cannamulla	102.9 MHz		
		Oulpie	101.3 MHz		
		Longreach	103.7 MHz		
		Bedoune	101.3 MHz		
		Blackall	98.3 MHz		
		Winton	98.3 MHz		
		Roma	94.3 MHz		
Roma	95.0 MHz				
Roma	101.9 MHz				

State	Licence area plan	Location	Frequency	radio continued	
South Australia	<i>Roma (cont.)</i>	Mitchell	102.1 MHz		
		Mitchell	103.7 MHz		
		St George	102.1 MHz		
		Yuleba	89.5 MHz		
	<i>Ceduna</i>	Ceduna/Smoky Bay	102.1 MHz		
		<i>Remote central & eastern Australia</i>	Coober Pedy		98.1 MHz
			<i>Riverland</i>		Renmark/Loxton
	Western Australia	<i>Woomera</i>	Renmark/Loxton		1557 kHz
			Woomera		106.5 MHz
		<i>Carnarvon</i>	Roxby Downs		95.5 MHz
Carnarvon			96.5 MHz		
Exmouth			95.7 MHz		
Onslow			101.9 MHz		
<i>Esperance</i>			Esperance	89.5 MHz	
			Hopetoun	97.3 MHz	
			Lake Grace	102.9 MHz	
			Ravensthorpe	93.1 MHz	
<i>Geraldton</i>	Geraldton		1008 kHz		
	<i>Kalgoorlie</i>		Kalgoorlie	1431 kHz	
<i>Karratha</i>		Karratha	101.7 MHz		
	Dampier	93.7 MHz			
	Paraburdoo	98.1 MHz			
	Roebourne	97.7 MHz			
	Tom Price	104.1 MHz			
	<i>Katanning</i>	Wagin	1422 kHz		
		<i>Mandurah</i>	Mandurah	1449 kHz	
	<i>Merredin</i>		Merredin	95.9 MHz	
		Southern Cross	88.7 MHz		
	<i>Northam</i>	Northam	1323 kHz		
<i>Port Hedland</i>		Port Hedland	92.5 MHz		
	<i>Remote WA</i>	Beagle Bay	102.1 MHz		
Broome		104.5 MHz			
Carnamah		104.3 MHz			
Coorow		95.1 MHz			
Cue		99.7 MHz			
Kununurra		105.7 MHz			
Laverton		104.5 MHz			
Leinster		99.7 MHz			
Leonora		98.5 MHz			
Marble Bar		104.3 MHz			
Meekeatharra	104.7 MHz				
Mingenew	92.5 MHz				
Morawa	104.7 MHz				
Mt Magnet	104.1 MHz				
Mullewa	104.3 MHz				
Newman	96.9 MHz				
Pannawonica	104.5 MHz				
Perenjori	105.7 MHz				
Telfer	102.1 MHz				
Three Springs	97.9 MHz				
Warmun	99.1 MHz				
Wiluna	100.5 MHz				
Wyndham	100.5 MHz				

For more information about open narrowcasting services, or applications for a transmitter licence for the provision of open narrowcasting services, please contact:

For information about the price-based allocation system:

Sydney
 Assistant Manager
 Allocation & Renewal
 Tel: (02) 9334 7927 or 7824
 Fax: (02) 9334 7799

For technical information about transmitter licences or channel availability:

Canberra
 Manager
 Services Planning
 Tel: (06) 256 2821
 Fax: (06) 253 3277