



Commercial radio

Albany's decision not to plan for an additional competing commercial radio service in the Albany market is a result of new radio services already planned for the area, and also the enactment of the *Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill 1995* which permits the allocation of second commercial radio broadcasting licence in solus markets.

The existing commercial radio licensee of 6VA Albany has been granted a second commercial radio licence under these provisions, which also no longer require the ABA to plan for a competing commercial radio service. This was the case when the ABA's draft plan was released in September 1995.

Following the release of the draft plan in September 1995, the ABA had four expressions of interest (from jmb Pty Ltd, SAT FM Pty Ltd, Great Southern Radio and Lost the Plot Productions) in providing a competing commercial radio service in the Albany market. Both jmb Pty Ltd and Great Southern Radio have since withdrawn their interest in the Albany market. Lost the Plot Productions has expressed a continuing interest in the provision of a third service, and as a result of this strong interest, the ABA intends to revisit the Albany licence area plan 18 months from the date of determination of the LAP.

Bunbury

The new commercial service, for Bunbury 6BUN will broadcast on FM 95.7 MHz.

Due to the strong investor and community invest, the ABA decided to make a licence available for a third commercial service in Bunbury.

The new service will operate on AM 621 kHz, with AM channel capacity also being made available at Collie and Margaret River for translators of the new service. This service will be made available via a price-based allocation system.

Bridgetown

The new commercial service, in Bridgetown 6BET will broadcast on AM 1269 kHz.

Community radio

The Albany Community Radio Association (ACR) and the Albany Christian Steering Committee (ACSC) both initially expressed

interest in providing a community radio service to Albany. Members of ACSC have since joined ACR, with ACR expressing the view that the community radio service can provide programs to meet the needs of the Christian community as well as other members of the community.

The licences for community radio services at Bunbury, Collie and Margaret River will not be available for allocation for at least one year. The Bridgetown licence will not be available for two years. This will give existing aspirant groups time to consolidate and new aspirant groups the opportunity to emerge.

Any new community radio licences will be made available by means of a merit-based allocation process.

Open narrowcasting radio

The plans to make channels available for open narrowcasting services follows interest expressed by aspirant narrowcasting groups. The licences for these services will be issued via an auction.

ABA invites comment on Ceduna community radio applicant

SYDNEY: The ABA is seeking public comment on an application for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Ceduna area of South Australia.

The ABA has received one application from Ceduna Community Radio Incorporated.

'We're interested in hearing from local people about the application,' said ABA Chairman Mr Peter Webb. 'We'd particularly like to hear whether the proposed service will meet existing and future community needs. The public's view on the applicant's capacity to provide the service is also of interest to us.'

The period for comment on the licence application closes on Friday 20 December 1996. The ABA may make comments submitted to it available to the applicant.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Where there is only one applicant, the ABA only has to decide if that applicant merits a licence. The ABA will assess the application against criteria set out in the Broadcasting Services Act.

Details of the radio licence area plan for Albany, Bunbury and Bridgetown are available for viewing at the local public library, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.