



# Television and radio proposals for remote central and eastern Australia

The ABA has proposed new radio licences and widening the coverage areas of two television services for remote central and eastern Australia in public plans released today.

The draft plans propose:

- three new FM commercial radio licences (which could go to existing local broadcasters in Charleville, Longreach and Roma);

- seven new community FM radio licences;
- retransmission on FM of the 4SUN satellite-delivered commercial radio service to 30 locations;
- retransmission on FM of the 8SAT satellite-delivered commercial radio service to 17 locations; and
- widening the coverage areas of the QQQ and Imparja television services.

'Planning broadcast services in remote central and eastern Australia is a high priority as there are limited commercial radio and television services available in each market,' said ABA Chairman, Mr Peter Webb.

## Commercial radio

### Solus markets

4VL Charleville, 4LG Longreach and 4ZR Roma are the only commercial radio stations operating in each of their markets.

Under recent amendments to broadcasting laws aimed at speeding up the allocation of second licences for single sta-

tion markets, these stations are eligible for an additional commercial radio licence for their market before the ABA's plans are final.

Applications opened on 5 January 1996. 4VL, 4LG and 4ZR have until 5 March 1996 to apply. If these broadcasters do not take up second licences, the ABA will reconsider its proposals.

### Competitive markets

Alice Springs and Mount Isa each have two commercial radio services, operated by the one owner in both cases. Submissions to the ABA have asked for new commercial radio services in these areas.

'Because of this public interest, the ABA would like to receive submissions from potential new operators interested in providing a third commercial radio service in those cities,' said Mr Webb.

### Community radio

The ABA has proposed:

- a new community radio licence for the Torres Straits, Ceduna, Borroloola and Kingscote (Kangaroo Island) with two new licences proposed for Mount Isa;
- a second community radio broadcasting service for Bourke;
- extending community radio 5RRR Woomera's service area to include Andamooka, Olympic Dam and Roxby Downs; and translators for community radio 2WEB Bourke to

retransmit to Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Wilcannia.

### Open narrowcasting radio

The ABA's plans also contain proposals for new FM open narrowcasting radio services at 38 locations throughout the region.

'These services can be used to provide localised information such as tourist radio, farming information services, racing radio and the like. They range in power from 20W to 600W and are licensed for five years once allocated,' said Mr Webb.

### Commercial television

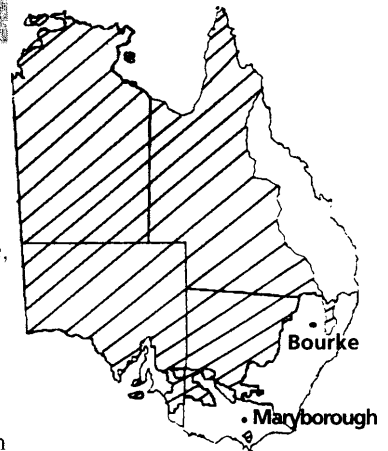
The ABA has proposed:

- reserving channel capacity for community/educational television at all locations, and
- extending the QQQ and Imparja satellite delivered commercial television services so that QQQ covers Alice Springs and Imparja covers Mount Isa.

'In response to submissions requesting additional commer-

### Licence area plans

Copies of the planning proposals for the region, comprising a discussion paper and draft licence area plans, are available from the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241. Copies will also be available for viewing in public libraries throughout the region.



cial television services across the region, the ABA would like to hear from service providers interested in providing new or improved commercial television services in the region,' said Mr Webb.

### Public comment

The public is invited to comment on the suggestions made in the draft plans.

Mr Webb said that while the ABA is willing to make spectrum available to allow for the development of services in the region, there was little interest.

'The ABA has identified the potential for new services, something that residents of these areas have clearly indicated they want. Now it's for business and the community to take up these opportunities. We cannot fund or make others fund extra services.'

### Submissions

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

Planning Officer for the Remote Central and Eastern Australia Region

ABA

PO Box 34

Belconnen ACT 2616

by 4 April 1996.