



News Update

change. 2LVR also wants to extend its licence area to include Cowra which does not have a community radio service.

The ABA is asking for public comment from the Cowra community about these proposals as part of the feedback it has requested from people across the Central NSW region on its planning proposals for radio services.

'We have recently released our draft licence area plan for new radio services in Central NSW. These proposals by 2BS and 2LVR relate just to Cowra, so we'd particularly like to hear from people in this area as part of the feedback we're seeking on our Central NSW licence area plans,' said Mr Bob Scott, ABA Acting Chairman.

In relation to the 2BS proposal, the ABA invites comment on the social and economic links between Bathurst and Cowra, Orange and Cowra, and Young and Cowra; the topography of the area; current reception of 2LF and 2GZ in Cowra; and possible detrimental effects on the profitability of the stations serving, or wanting to serve the community.

In relation to the 2LVR proposal, the ABA seeks comment from any Cowra-based groups interested in providing a community radio service. The ABA is also interested in the level of support for community broadcasting in Cowra, and what local people think of 2LVR providing a service to Cowra. 2LVR has not yet indicated to the ABA whether it intends to provide programs of local interest for the community of Cowra.

Written submissions should be sent to: Planning Officer for Central NSW ABA PO Box 34 Belconnen ACT 2616 by 1 March 1996.

Clarification: categories of broadcasting services

SYDNEY: The ABA has decided to clarify the definition of subscription broadcasting and subscription narrowcasting services.

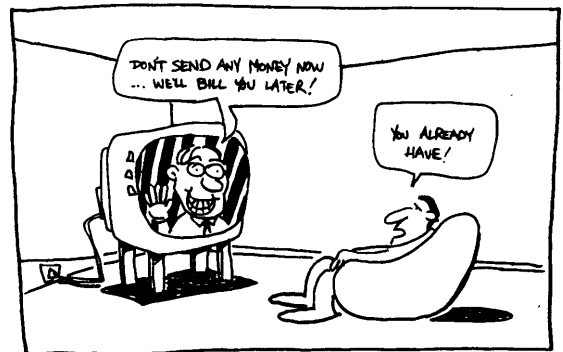
The move follows an opinion by the ABA that the home shopping service The Value Channel, carried on Galaxy and Optus Vision, is a subscription narrowcasting service. All services presently being carried and delivered by Optus Vision and Galaxy are being encrypted and are only available to Galaxy and Optus Vision subscribers.

A licence condition for subscription narrowcasting and broadcasting services requires subscription fees to be the predominant source of revenue for the service.

The ABA is aware that The Value Channel receives no portion of subscription payments made to Optus Vision and Galaxy, the present carriers of the service.

The application of this licence condition appears to the ABA to generate unintended consequences for subscription service providers who receive no part of the consideration paid by subscribers for access to other services with which they are packaged.

The ABA has decided to undertake this process in the interests of regulatory predictability and stability. For the same reason, the ABA has decided to release the text of the opinion provided to subsidiaries of International Media Management (Holdings) Ltd (IMM) concerning The Value Channel.



One of the criteria for defining subscription broadcasting services is that they are services that are made available only on the payment of subscription fees.

The ABA proposes to clarify this criterion or to determine new definitional criteria which would incorporate the concept that subscription fees would not be regarded as having been paid unless they are paid to the actual service provider.

The ABA will undertake consultation with industry peak groups and other stakeholders in the near future based on draft wording changes which reflect this concept.

In 1994 the ABA gave an opinion that The Value Channel service, as then proposed, would be an open narrowcasting service. The 1994 opinion was based on information provided by the applicant that the service would be unencrypted and therefore potentially freely available to viewers with the appropriate equipment. Since then, in packaging with Galaxy and Optus Vision, circumstances changed to include encryption.

Planning for new commercial radio services in solus markets

CANBERRA: Eligible licensees in solus commercial regional radio markets have until 5 March to apply for a licence for a second

Copies of The Value Channel opinion are available by calling Kevin O'Brien on (02) 334 7879.