



News Update

ABA finding on News and Telstra not required

SYDNEY: In view of Telstra's sale of its shares in the Seven network, the ABA has decided it is no longer necessary to reach a finding on whether News Corporation and Telstra were associates in relation to control of Seven.

At the time it released its report on Seven, the ABA said it was still considering the relationship between News and Telstra and its implications for the network.

'A finding about the relationship between News and Telstra would have been relevant to their future conduct as major shareholders in Seven,' said ABA Chairman Mr Peter Webb. 'As Telstra has sold out of Seven, such a finding is no longer relevant.'

In its investigation of Seven, the ABA found that whatever view was taken of the relationship between Telstra and News, there was no evidence that News was, together with Telstra, in a position to exercise control of Seven.

The ABA has set out its views on the operation of the 'associate' provisions of the Act in its report into control of Seven Network Limited.

New commercial radio licences

SYDNEY: The ABA has granted a second commercial radio licence to broadcasters in Goulburn and Gunnedah (NSW), Innisfail, Roma and Charters Towers (Qld), Mt Gambier (SA) and Carnarvon, Karratha and Port Hedland (WA). The licensees are:

- Radio Goulburn Pty Ltd, owner of 2GN in Goulburn, which will broadcast its new service 2SNO on FM 93.5 MHz in Goulburn;

- 2MO Gunnedah Pty Ltd, owner of 2MO, which will broadcast its new service 2GGG on FM 97.5 MHz in Gunnedah; and
- Coastal Broadcasters Pty Ltd, owner of 4KZ, which will broadcast its new service 4ZKZ on FM 98.3 MHz in Innisfail; and
- North Queensland Broadcasting Corporation Pty Ltd, owner of 4GC in Charters Towers, which will broadcast its new service 4HIT on FM 95.9 MHz in Charters Towers;
- Regional Broadcasters Australia Pty Ltd, owner of 4ZR, which will broadcast its new service 4ROM on FM 95.1 MHz in Roma; and
- South Eastern Broadcasters Pty Limited, owner of 5SE, which will broadcast the new commercial radio service 5SEF on FM 96.1 MHz in Mount Gambier;
- Northwest Radio Pty Ltd, owner of 6NW in Port Hedland, which will broadcast its new service 6HED on FM 91.7 MHz in Port Hedland; and
- Northwest Radio Pty Ltd, owner of 6KA, which will broadcast its new service 6RED on FM 106.5 MHz in Karratha; and
- Brailsford Investments Pty Ltd, licensee of 6LN, which will broadcast its new service 6CAR on FM 99.7 MHz in Carnarvon.

The new licence also allows 6LN to transmit its service on 99.7 MHz in Exmouth. Exmouth is currently without a commercial radio service, however, discussions are being held between the ABA, 6LN and the Shire Council.

The new licences follow a change to the Broadcasting Services Act 1992, recommended by the ABA, which allows for early licensing of additional commercial radio licences in single service markets.

A total of 54 single station markets became

Copies of the ABA's report *Investigation into Control: News Corporation Ltd/Seven Network Ltd*, are available from the ABA, price \$10, ph: (02) 334 7700.

Commercial radio licences

The number of commercial radio licences on issue as at 22-5-96.

	Capital City*		Regional**		s.39††	Total
	FM	AM	FM	AM		
NSW/ACT	6	7	18	29	11	71
Vic.	4	5	5†	12	3§	29
Qld.	2	4	10‡	21	3	40
SA	3	2	0	6	1	12
WA	3	2	4‡	12	7	28
TAS/NT	3	1	2‡	7	2	15
Australia	21	21	39	88	27	196

* Includes Canberra and Darwin

† Includes commercial radio licence allocated to Lookridge Pty Ltd to serve Mildura—no call sign yet.

‡ Includes former remote satellite commercial radio licences (4SUN, 6SAT and 8SAT) no service commenced.

§ Only two licences allocated under s.39 have commenced service, 3MDA Mildura and 3BBA Ballarat.

** includes Ipswich

†† includes latest s.39 licences issued, for Gunnedah, Roma and Karratha (22-5-96).