



The ABA will make nine new radio services available for allocation in the Orange and Dubbo markets.

# New radio services for Orange and Dubbo

The ABA has made FM channels available for nine new radio services in the Orange and Dubbo markets of New South Wales. New commercial radio licences will be made available for allocation in Orange and Dubbo, while new community and open narrowcasting services have been planned for Orange, Dubbo and Cobar.

The decisions are contained in the ABA's final licence area plans for radio in Orange and Dubbo. The ABA can now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available.

FM channels have been made available for new commercial radio services in Orange and Dubbo — the third in each market, following the allocation of second commercial radio licences to the existing operators in March 1996. The second services started in Orange (2GZF on FM 105.9 MHz) in September 1996 and in Dubbo (2ZOO on 92.7 MHz) in February 1997.

'The new commercial radio service in each market, which will have the same licence area as the existing AM and FM services, will increase the choice of radio services available to local listeners,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

FM channels have been made available for two new community radio services in

Orange, one in Dubbo and one for Cobar.

For each of Orange, Dubbo and Cobar, one FM channel has been made available for new open narrowcasting radio services.

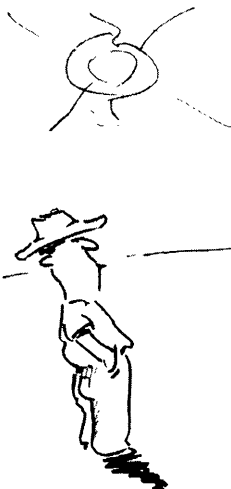
'The decisions to make the channels available follows interest expressed by parties in providing new commercial, community and open narrowcasting radio services,' said Mr Webb.

The licences for the commercial radio and open narrowcasting radio channels will be allocated by an auction process, and the licences for the community radio channels will be allocated by a merit based selection process.

## Commercial radio

One additional commercial radio broadcasting service will be made available in Orange. The service will operate on FM 105.1 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Mt Canobolas, with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 5 kW.

One additional commercial radio broadcasting service will be made available in Dubbo. The service will operate on FM 93.5 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Sappa Bulga Trig, with a maximum ERP of 10 kW. A channel (102.1 MHz) will be made available at Cobar for retrans-



mission of this commercial radio service.

2KY Sport & Talk (based in Sydney) and Craig Denyer Marketing and Communications (based in Carrara, Qld), have expressed interest in providing commercial radio services in the Orange, and Dubbo markets.

R. G. Capital Radio Pty Ltd (based on the Gold Coast) expressed interest in providing two commercial radio services in each of the Orange and Dubbo radio markets, and reserved its decision on whether to bid for a single licence until finalisation of the respective licence area plans.

Mr Timothy Pankhurst (based in Dubbo) has expressed interest in providing a commercial radio service in the Dubbo market.

Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

## Community radio

Two additional community FM radio broadcasting services will be made available in Orange. These services will operate on FM 103.5 MHz and 107.5 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Mt Canobolas, with a maximum ERP of 5 kW.

One community FM radio broadcasting service will be made available in Dubbo. The service will operate on FM 94.3 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Sappa Bulga Trig, with a maximum ERP of 10 kW.

One community FM radio broadcasting service will be made available in Cobar. The service will operate on FM 102.9 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Fort Bourke Hill, with a maximum ERP of 100 W.

2MBS-FM and 2RPH (both based in Sydney) have expressed interest in providing community radio services in both Orange and Dubbo. ▽



Canobolas Christian Broadcasters (Orange) and Orange Community Broadcasters have expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Orange.

Dubbo Christian Broadcasters has expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Dubbo.

Muda Aboriginal Media Corporation (based in Bourke) and Cobar Community Radio have expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Cobar.

Other interested community groups may emerge when ap-

plications are called for the licences.

#### Open narrowcasting

One additional channel will be made available for an open narrowcasting radio service in Orange. The service will operate on FM 106.7 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Mt Canobolas, with a maximum ERP of 5 kW.

One additional channel will be made available for an open narrowcasting radio service in Dubbo. The service will operate on FM 90.3 MHz from a nominal transmission site at


Dubbo City, with a maximum ERP of 100 W.

One additional channel will be made available for an open narrowcasting radio service in Cobar. The service will operate on 104.5 MHz from a nominal transmission site at Fort Bourke Hill, with a maximum ERP of 100 W.

Western Visitor Radio (based in Dubbo) has expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services in Orange and Dubbo.

Canobolas Christian Broadcasters has indicated that if it is unsuccessful in obtaining a

community radio licence in Orange, it would bid for an open narrowcasting licence in Orange.

Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage. 

**The radio licence area plans for Orange and Dubbo will be available for viewing at local public libraries, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling freecall 1800 810 241.**

**Community television trials on the sixth channel will continue for a further 12 months, while the Government makes its final decision regarding the channel.**

## Community TV trials to continue on the sixth channel

**T**he ABA has decided to continue the community television trial on the sixth high powered television channel (sixth channel) for a further twelve months.

The extension of the trial for the existing licensees, until 30 June 1998, anticipates that the Government will make its final decision on the permanent use of the sixth television channel within this period.

'At present there is no indication of the likely outcome of the Government's final decision on the permanent use of the sixth channel,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'This twelve month interim period will provide trial community broadcasters with a measure of stability which is essential to operate a television service effectively. It will

also allow for the transition to any new arrangements following the Government's decision.'

The sixth channel has been used for community purposes on a trial basis since 1992. The Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, is currently considering the ABA's report, *Inquiry into the Future Use of the Sixth Television Channel*, in which a number of options for the use of the channel were put forward, including that the channel be permanently allocated to community access television.

#### Licensing community broadcasters

When the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* took effect the service category, community broadcasting, was defined for the first time.

In 1992 the Government

asked the ABA to facilitate a trial of community television on the sixth channel. The Act does not contain provision for temporary licensing of community broadcasting. To give effect to the Government's decision, the ABA therefore used the provisions of the Act to:

1. make spectrum (channels) available on a temporary basis; and
2. allow services to operate for community and educational purposes under the open narrowcast television 'class licence'.

Aspirant community television broadcasters have access to the sixth channel under a temporary licensing scheme. Under this scheme, the ABA issues an apparatus licence to a representative non-profit community organisation in

each television licence area to be served.

To receive an apparatus licence, an applicant organisation must satisfy the ABA that:

- it could meet the definition of a community broadcasting service (section 15 of the Act); and
- it is legally constituted and governed in such a manner that ensures the participation of members of the community in the operations of the licensee and the selection and provision of programs.

The ABA's allocation criteria are contained in an access statement which it uses when assessing compliance with the licensing requirements.

This class licence can only be used to provide an open narrowcasting television service for community and educational non-profit purposes. 