



**The ABA has released its final licence area plans for the Mudgee and Swan Hill radio markets.**

## New radio services: Mudgee and Swan Hill markets

The ABA has made FM channels available for new community and open narrowcasting radio services in the Mudgee (NSW) and Swan Hill (Vic) markets.

The decisions are contained in the ABA's final licence area plans for radio in Mudgee and Swan Hill.

'For each of Mudgee and Kandos, FM channels have been made available for new community radio services. Although the licence for the community radio service in Kandos will be made available for allocation in the next few months, the licence for Mudgee will not be available for allocation for at least two years. This will give existing aspirant groups in Mudgee time to consolidate and new aspirant groups the opportunity to emerge,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

A new community radio licence will be made available for allocation at Barham, and a new open narrowcasting licence will be made available in Swan Hill. The ABA has also planned a channel for a new national radio service at Hopetoun.

The allocation of the licence for a community radio service at Swan Hill is to be delayed for at least twelve months to give existing aspirant groups time to consolidate and new local aspirant groups the opportunity to emerge. The community radio licence at Barham, where there is an

active local aspirant group, will be made available for allocation in due course.

One FM channel for a new open narrowcasting radio service has been made available in Mudgee.

### **Mudgee area**

#### **Commercial radio**

No additional commercial radio licences will be made available in Mudgee. The ABA allocated a second commercial radio licence to the licensee of 2MG Mudgee in March 1996.

#### **Community radio**

2MBS-FM and 2RPH (both based in Sydney) and Kandos Rylstone Community Radio Inc. (based in Kandos) have expressed interest in providing community radio services in Mudgee.

Kandos Rylstone Community Radio Inc., which has been providing regular test transmissions over the last three years, has expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Kandos.

#### **Open narrowcasting**

2KY Sport and Talk (based in Sydney), Western Visitor Radio (based in Dubbo), Keith Ashton and James Lilburne (based in Sydney), and Gayle and John Babbage (based in Mudgee) have expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services in Mudgee.

### **Swan Hill area**

#### **Commercial radio**

The licensee of the existing commercial radio AM service, 3SH, is expected to start operating a second commercial service on FM 107.7 MHz in Swan Hill later this year. The ABA has decided that it will not make an additional (i.e. third) commercial radio service available in the Swan Hill market at this time.

#### **National radio**

The licence areas plan provides for spectrum capacity for existing and new national radio services. There are three existing national services in Swan Hill. A channel for a new national service has been planned for Hopetoun on FM 88.3 MHz with a maximum ERP of 500 W.

#### **Community radio**

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Swan Hill. The service is planned to operate on FM 99.1 MHz from a nominal transmitter site at Swan Hill Water Tower, with a maximum ERP of 1 kW.

Only one group, Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH) has expressed interest in providing a community radio service to Swan Hill. RPH wishes to provide the service as a retransmission of a proposed Bendigo RPH service, contingent upon its obtaining a

Bendigo community radio licence.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Barham. The service is planned to operate on FM 89.1 MHz from a nominal transmitter site at Barham Golf Complex, Moulamien Road, with a maximum ERP of 1 kW.

2 State Community Radio (formerly Golden Rivers Radio Broadcasters) has confirmed its interest in providing this service. Other interested parties may emerge when applications are called for the licence.

#### **Open narrowcasting radio**

One channel will be made available for an open narrowcasting radio service in Swan Hill. The service is planned to operate on FM 106.9 from a nominal transmitter site at Pental with a maximum ERP of 10 kW.

Sport 927 (3UZ Pty Ltd), which is owned by the Victorian Racing Industry, has expressed interest in providing this service.

**The radio licence area plan (LAP) for Mudgee will be available for viewing at local public libraries, the radio LAP for Swan Hill will be available for viewing at the Swan Hill and Kerang Public Libraries. The LAPs can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.**