



The ABA is proposing to make 19 new radio licences available in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta regions in draft licence area plans released.

New radio services proposed

The ABA is proposing to make 19 new radio licences available in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta regions of southern NSW and northern Victoria.

In draft licence area plans released in late June the ABA proposes to make licences available for two new commercial radio services, ten new community radio services and seven new open narrowcasting radio services. Capacity will also be reserved for four new national radio services, two at Eildon and two at Mount Beauty.

'These proposals lay the groundwork for a significant expansion of radio broadcasting services in northern Victoria and part of southern New South Wales,' said Mr Peter Webb ABA Chairman.

The region includes the cities of Albury, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Wodonga and the towns of Beechworth, Benalla, Bright, Corowa, Deniliquin, Euroa, Finley, Kyabram, Mansfield, Myrtleford, Numurkah, Rutherglen, Seymour, Tocumwal and Yarravonga.

Commercial radio

The ABA has proposed to make two new commercial

radio licences available, one in Albury and one in Shepparton. This follows interest expressed by potential service providers. If these proposals are taken up, Albury and Shepparton would each have three commercial radio services.

Community radio

The ABA has proposed to make one new FM community radio licence available for each of Albury, Alexandra/Eildon, Cobram, Corryong, Deniliquin, Mansfield, Mount Beauty, Shepparton, Walwa/Jingellic and Wangaratta.

Open narrowcasting radio

The draft licence area plans also contain proposals for one new AM open narrowcasting service in each of Albury and Shepparton, and one new FM open narrowcasting service in each of Deniliquin, Holbrook, Jerilderie, Seymour and Wangaratta.

Public comment

The public is now invited to comment on the suggestions made in the draft radio licence area plans. Mr Webb said it was important to understand



the ABA's role.

'The ABA's job is to identify vacant radio channels and decide the number and type of new licences to be made available. Then it's for business and the community to take up these opportunities.'

'We cannot fund or make others fund extra services. We cannot demand improved reception of existing services,' he said.

Licence area plans

The release of the draft licence area plans follows wide public consultation by the ABA which held meetings in the region in November 1994. More than two hundred

and fifty submissions were received about radio services in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta region.

Planning for television services in the region is scheduled for the first half of 1999.

The four licence area plans for radio in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta region contain details of all national (ABC and SBS), commercial, community or open narrowcasting radio broadcasting services to be available on the broadcasting services bands of the radiofrequency spectrum. These are the parts of the spectrum used by AM and FM radio services.



Main planning issues

The main issue resulting from the ABA's consultation process is the limited availability of spectrum to accommodate interest expressed by existing and potential radio broadcasters in providing new radio services.

There is interest from the public in increasing the number of radio services across the region, particularly community radio services.

Currently there are a range of ABC radio services available throughout the region; two commercial services in each of Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta; and community radio services in Albury, Omeo and Shepparton.

While the ABA's proposals would substantially increase the number of radio services throughout the region, there is limited spectrum available. In making its proposals, the ABA has weighed up submissions from the public requesting additional radio services and the interest of those who wish to supply additional radio services against the known vacant spectrum.

Commercial radio

Parties expressing ongoing interest in providing new commercial radio services, other than existing broadcasters, are:

Shepparton FM Pty Ltd — Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta.

McCullough Robertson Solicitors, on behalf of an unnamed client, in Albury and Shepparton.

Mallesons Stephen Jaques Solicitors, on behalf of Broadcast Media Group Pty. Ltd (3CV and 3BBO) in Shepparton.

3UZ Pty Ltd which currently operates racing radio services in Victoria, expressed interest in either a commercial or open narrowcasting radio service to Shepparton and Wangaratta.

Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

The ABA has proposed two new commercial radio licences, one in Albury and one in Shepparton but no additional (i.e. third) commercial radio services in either Deniliquin or Wangaratta.

National services

The ABA has reserved capacity for two additional national radio services each in Eildon

and Mount Beauty, as well as reserving capacity for the 24 existing national radio services throughout the region.

Improving existing radio services

The ABA proposes to make channel capacity available for transmitters at Corryong and Falls Creek for the commercial FM radio service 2AAY Albury. To improve reception of its service, the ABA also proposes to allow the community broadcaster 2REM Albury to increase its power.

Allocation of licences

With the exception of the

capacity reserved for national and existing community broadcasters, and channel capacity made available for allocation to community broadcasters, other capacity set out in the licence area plan will generally be available for commercial licences and open narrowcasting services, under a price-based allocation scheme.

Capacity set out for community licences will be allocated by means of a merit based system. The ABA will generally begin the allocation process after a final licence area plan for each area has been determined.

The ABA's plans and discussion documents are available for viewing at the Upper Murray Regional Library in Albury; the Goulburn Valley Regional Library in Shepparton; the High Country Library Corporation in Wangaratta; the Central Murray Regional Library in Deniliquin and the Campaspe Regional Library Service in Echuca. The documents can be obtained from the ABA by telephoning Freecall 1800 810 241.

Written submissions should be sent to :
Planning Officer for Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta
ABA
PO Box 34
Belconnen ACT 2616.
by 31 July 1997.

Programs granted C or P classification

Programs granted C or P classification between 10 June and 8 July 1997. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager, Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7840.

Title	Origin	Class.	New/ Renewal	Decision date	Applicant
DOOM RUNNERS	Australia	CAD	new	17.6.1997	Millennium Runners Pty Ltd

C - children's program, CAD - C Australian drama, P - preschool, PRC - provisional C