



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