



New community licence for Kangaroo Island

KANGAROO ISLAND: The ABA has allocated a community radio broadcasting licence for Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

The licence has been allocated to Kangaroo Island Community Radio Incorporated and will enable the provision of a service that targets the entire Kangaroo Island community. The licensee will broadcast its new service on FM 90.7 MHz and has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

'The proposed Kangaroo Island service will, to a great extent, meet the community radio broadcasting needs of much of the community,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'Presently, no other service in the region satisfies those needs.'

The ABA has allocated the licence after a process of consultation with the local community. The ABA sought the community's views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in the region and advertised the availability of the new community radio licence in the local media. The application received was made available to the public for comment, particularly in regard to whether the proposed service would meet existing and future community needs.

Kangaroo Island Community Broadcasters Inc. has been conducting temporary transmissions since 1992.

This is the fifth community licence to be allocated under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. As licence area plans are completed for regions around Australia, additional community radio broadcasting licences will be determined and then advertised for allocation. Any new community broadcasting licences detailed in these licence area plans will be allocated using a merit based process.

ABA urges merger of Albany community radio applicants

ALBANY: The ABA has written to the two applicants for the permanent community radio broadcasting licence to serve Albany, WA and has encouraged them to merge or otherwise cooperate in support of a single application.

'This policy is desirable where there are applicants competing to represent the same community interest or similar interests as is the case in Albany. The ABA hopes that the

applicants will have as their primary focus, the needs and interests of the community within the Albany licence area,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The ABA called for applications for a new community radio licence for Albany on 8 April 1997. Two applications were received, from Albany Community Radio Inc., and Great Southern Community Radio Inc. The applicants appear to have similar aims and objectives and are competing to represent the same community interest or similar interests.

The Albany community radio licence area comprises parts of four local government shires of the Great Southern Region of Western Australia: the Town of Albany (Albany central business district), the Shire of Albany (outlying Albany suburbs), the Shire of Plantagenet (Mt Barker area) and the Shire of Denmark (Denmark area).

The ABA has placed a copy of its letter to the applicants on the public file in the Albany and Mt Barker public libraries and has sent a copy to the Mayor of Albany and to the chief executive officers of the local government shires in the licence area.

Applicants have been asked to respond to the ABA by Monday 28 July 1997.

ABA invites comment on Torres Strait community radio applicant

TORRES STRAIT: The ABA is seeking public comment on an application for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Torres Strait region of North Queensland.

The ABA has received one application for the Torres Strait licence, from Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Incorporated.

'We're interested in hearing from local people about the application,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'We'd particularly like to hear whether the proposed service will meet existing and future community needs. The public's view on the applicant's capacity to provide the service is also of interest to us.'

The period for comment on the licence application closes on 31 July 1997. The ABA may make comments submitted to it available to the applicant.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Where there is only one applicant, the ABA only has to decide if that applicant merits a licence. The ABA will assess the application