



Temporary community licences

SYDNEY: The ABA is now considering submissions to its call for comment on how it should implement the new temporary community radio broadcasting licence scheme.

Comments on the discussion paper closed on 22 August.

Applicants for temporary community radio licences must be locally based, not-for-profit, representative community organisations. The key issues for the policy will be what channels can be used for temporary broadcasting, how the ABA will determine the amount of broadcasting air-time that should be made available and how to manage competition for access to limited broadcasting air-time.

The ABA is inviting early applications for temporary community broadcasting licences in 32 markets.

The ABA is considering a licensing policy which will enable the extension of temporary community broadcasting licences to other areas where the licensing issues are more complex.

'The ABA expects that, it will be able to allocate temporary licences for longer term or continuous broadcasting in regional areas where there is only one applicant and there is greater certainty that a channel will be available for a new permanent community service. More difficult cases may take longer to resolve, and will rely to some degree on how much cooperation there is between applicants to share the available air-time,' Mr Webb said.

ABA seeks comment on proposed licence condition for new television licence in remote WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: The ABA has announced that it is proposing to impose a licence condition on the new commercial television broadcasting licence to be allocated in the near future for the Western Australian remote and regional licence areas.

The proposed condition states:

The licensee must provide terrestrial re-transmission facilities enabling reception of its commercial television broadcasting service to at least:

- 75 per cent of the licence area population within twelve months of the commencement of the service; and
- 85 per cent of the licence area population on

the fourth anniversary of the commencement of the service.

In calculating the coverage of the licensee's service on the fourth anniversary of the commencement of the service the licensee may include the population in those parts of the licence area served by 'self help' transmitters and direct-to-home reception but not otherwise.'

'There is a strong public interest in making the second commercial television broadcasting service available to as many Western Australians as possible. However, the roll-out of the new service has to be commercially feasible for the new licensee,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

Viewers in remote and regional Western Australia currently receive only one commercial television service. On 21 February 1997, the ABA decided that a second commercial television broadcasting service should be made available and that the licence area of the new service should be equivalent to the sum of the licence areas of the existing services provided by WAW, GTW, SSW and VEW. This licence area constitutes all of WA outside of Perth.

The ABA is seeking comment on the proposed licence condition. A consultation paper setting out the rationale for imposing the licence condition has been sent to known interested parties. Copies may be obtained by telephoning freecall 1800 810 241.

Interested parties should direct their comments in writing to: The Manager, Codes and Conditions, ABA, PO Box Q500, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230 by Friday 12 September 1997.

Submissions may be faxed to (02) 9334 7799.

Extension of 3HOT community radio service to Ouyen

OUYEN: The ABA has made an FM radio frequency available in Ouyen for transmission of the community radio service 3HOT Mildura.

'This will enable the township of Ouyen to receive a community radio service,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The ABA's decision is contained in its variation to the licence area plan (LAP) for the Mildura/Sunraysia region. The decision follows interest expressed by community radio service 3HOT Mildura in extending its coverage area via a transmitter at Ouyen. The Ouyen transmitter is planned to operate on FM 90.7 MHz with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W from a nominal site at Ouyen silos.