



The ABA has made available 33 new radio services in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta radio markets.

New radio services

The ABA has made channels available for 33 new radio services in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta radio markets.

Licences for two new commercial radio services, nine new community radio services and twenty new open narrowcasting services will be made available for allocation. The ABA has also made channels available for two national (ABC/SBS) services at Mt Beauty.

Licences for new commercial radio services will be made available for allocation in Albury and Shepparton. Allocation of these licences would bring the number of commercial radio services to three in each of Albury and Shepparton.

Licences for new community radio services will be made available for allocation in Alexandra/Eildon, Corryong, Deniliquin, Mansfield, Mount Beauty, Walwa/Jingellic and Wangaratta as well as one additional community radio licence in each of Albury and Shepparton.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area

plans for radio in the Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta regions. The ABA can now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available.

'The decision to make the channels available follows interest expressed by parties in providing new commercial, community and open narrowcasting radio services,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The licences for the new commercial services will be allocated by means of a price-based allocation process, and the new community radio licences will be allocated by means of a merit-based allocation process. The licences for the open narrowcasting services will be allocated by auction.

The licence area plans do not include television services. Planning for television services throughout Regional Victoria/Southern NSW is currently scheduled to commence late next year.

National radio

The licence area plan reserves spectrum capacity for existing



national radio services. There are ten existing national services in the Albury region, two in the Deniliquin region, nine in the Shepparton region and five in the Wangaratta region.

Channels have been planned for two proposed new national services at Mount Beauty/Tawonga South in the Wangaratta region.

Commercial radio

Albury

A licence for one new commercial radio broadcasting service will be made available in Albury. The service is planned to operate from a nominal transmitter site at Mt Baranduda, with additional transmitters in Corryong, Falls Creek and Omeo. The licence area will be identical to that of

the existing commercial services, 2AY/2AAY.

Following release of the draft LAP, five parties have expressed interest in providing this service—Goulburn Valley Broadcasters Pty Ltd, North East Broadcasters Limited, MMA Communications (a major shareholder in Radio 2SM Sydney), Multimedia Corporation Pty Ltd (Tatley Pty Ltd) and 2KY1017 Racing Radio. Before release of the draft LAP, interest in providing this service had also been received from Shepparton FM. Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

Channels have been made available in Corryong, Falls Creek and Omeo to facilitate the reception of the existing FM service 2AAY Albury at those centres.



Deniliquin/ Cobram

Capacity for a transmitter associated with the existing commercial FM radio service 2MOR Deniliquin has been made available in Cobram.

Shepparton

A licence for one new commercial radio broadcasting service will be made available in Shepparton. The licence area will be identical to that of the existing commercial services, 3SR/3SUN.

Following release of the draft LAP, three parties have expressed interest in providing this service—Mallesons Stephen Jaques on behalf of Broadcast Media Group, North East Broadcasters Limited and Multimedia Corporation Pty. Ltd (Tatley Pty Ltd). Before release of the draft LAP, interest had also been expressed by a locally based group, Shepparton FM. Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

The licence area for the existing Shepparton commercial radio services has been extended to include the towns of Acheron and Taggerty.

Community radio

One additional community radio broadcasting licence will be made available for allocation in Albury. Albury-Wodonga Christian Broadcasters Inc. and the Association for the Blind Ltd have confirmed their interest in providing this community radio service following release of the draft licence area plan. An increase in power has been approved for the existing community radio service 2REM in Albury.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Alexandra/Eildon. Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc., which

has been conducting temporary transmissions in the Alexandra/Eildon area, has confirmed its interest in providing this service.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available for allocation in Corryong. Upper Murray Community Gospel Broadcasters, which has been conducting temporary transmissions in the Corryong area, has confirmed its interest in providing this service. Radio Upper Murray, the aspirant group interested in providing a full-time community radio service in Walwa/Jingellic, is also interested in serving Corryong.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available for allocation in Deniliquin. Interest in this additional community radio service to Deniliquin has come from the aspirant broadcasters Echuca-Moama Broadcast Service Inc., which is currently conducting temporary transmissions, 2 State Community Radio (from Barham) and the Radio for the Print Handicapped.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Mansfield. Mansfield Community Radio (Inc.) has been conducting temporary transmissions in Mansfield, and has confirmed its interest in providing this service.

One community broadcasting licence will be made available for allocation in Mount Beauty not earlier than two years after the Wangaratta licence area plan has been determined.

One additional community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Shepparton. The Association for the Blind (Radio for the Print Handicapped) and Greater Shepparton Christian Broadcasters have confirmed

their interest following release of the draft licence area plan in providing this community radio service.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available for allocation in Walwa/Jingellic. Radio Upper Murray [Walwa Community Radio], which has been conducting temporary transmissions in Walwa/Jingellic, has confirmed its interest in providing this service.

One community radio broadcasting licence will be made available in Wangaratta. Interest in this community radio service at Wangaratta has come from the aspirant broadcasters Wangaratta Community Radio Association Inc, which is currently conducting temporary transmissions.

Open narrowcasting radio

Albury, Corowa, Culcairn, Henty, Holbrook and Mulwala

Two channels will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services in the Albury area. One service is planned to operate on AM 1296 kHz covering a radius of 40 km from the nominal transmitter site. The second service is planned to operate on FM 99.3 MHz covering a radius of 8 km from the nominal transmitter site.

One channel will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services at each of Corowa, Culcairn, Henty, Holbrook and Mulwala. Interest in providing open narrowcasting services at Albury has been expressed by 2KY Racing Radio, Mr Al Kirton and InfoRadio Australia. Interest in providing similar services at the other nominated centres has been expressed by 2KY Racing Radio. InfoRadio Australia also

expressed interest in providing a service at Holbrook.

Barham, Berrigan, Deniliquin, Finley, Jerilderie, Moama, Tocumwal and Wakool

One channel will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services at each of Barham (situated within the Swan Hill licence area), Berrigan, Deniliquin, Finley, Jerilderie, Moama, Tocumwal and Wakool. Interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the Deniliquin region has been expressed by 2KY Racing Radio, Multimedia Corporation Pty Ltd and Rich Rivers Radio Pty Ltd.

Benalla, Euroa, Seymour and Shepparton

One channel will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services at each of Benalla, Euroa, Seymour and Shepparton. Interest in providing open narrowcasting services at Benalla, Euroa and Shepparton has been expressed by 3UZ Pty Ltd. Additionally, InfoRadio Australia and 3UZ Pty Ltd have expressed interest in providing a similar service at Seymour.

Wangaratta

One channel will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services at Wangaratta. Interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the Wangaratta region has been expressed by 3UZ Pty Ltd and Multimedia Corporation Pty Ltd.

Details of the radio licence area plans for Albury, Deniliquin, Shepparton and Wangaratta are available for viewing at local libraries or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.