



## Licence renewals

SYDNEY: As part of the transitional legislation which was introduced when the ABA was created in October 1992, many radio and television licences were deemed to have been renewed on 4 or 5 October 1992. As licences run for a period of five years, 249 licences were due to expire on 3 or 4 October this year. Applications were lodged by 248 licensees – 18 commercial television; 25 commercial radio; 45 community radio; and 160 from 80 remote Aboriginal communities which each operated one radio and one television service under the former Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS). Under the transitional legislation, the licences for these BRACS services became community broadcasting licences.

One community radio licensee, Hedland Community Radio Inc., did not apply for renewal. The broadcasting service, which was allocated the callsign 6HCR, has never commenced service. It is understood that the group has been disbanded and all efforts by the ABA to trace the office bearers of the licensee have failed. As a result, the licence will lapse on 3 October 1997. Provision has been made in the Licence Area Plan for a community radio service to serve Port Hedland. Should interest be expressed in the future, the ABA will be able to allocate a new community licence subject to the requirements of the Broadcasting Services Act being met.

The 160 licences for the former BRACS services, will expire on 4 October 2002. The remaining 88 licences will expire on 3 October 2002.

## Public comment sought on Albany community radio applicants

ALBANY: The ABA is seeking public comment on applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Albany area of Western Australia.

The ABA has received two applications for the Albany licence, from Albany Community Radio Inc., and Great Southern Community Radio Inc. The applicants have similar aims and objectives and are competing to represent similar community interests.

On 27 June 1997 the ABA wrote to the two applicants encouraging them to merge or otherwise cooperate in support of a single application. In view of the responses received from the applicants, the ABA has decided to

proceed with the allocation process on the basis of the two applications currently lodged.

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

The period for comment on the licence application closed on Tuesday 23 September 1997. The ABA may make comments submitted to it available to the applicants.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. The ABA will assess each of the applications having regard to the matters set out in the Act. If both applicants are found to merit the licence, a comparative merit assessment would then be made with the ABA deciding which was the successful applicant for the licence.

Copies of the applications are available for perusal at Albany and Mt Barker public libraries. Written comments should be sent to the Manager, Allocation and Renewal, ABA, PO Box Q500, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230.

## ABA invites applications for commercial radio broadcasting licences

SYDNEY: Under section 36 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, the ABA has invited applications for commercial radio broadcasting licences in the following areas:

Albury, NSW; Ballarat, VIC; Bendigo, VIC; Bunbury, WA; Dubbo, NSW; Orange, NSW; Shepparton, VIC.

Anyone interested in applying for a licence must buy a copy of the information package *Price-based Allocation of Commercial Broadcasting Licences* from the ABA. The cost of the package is \$50.

The information package explains in detail how to apply for a licence, provides technical information about the licences being made available and contains copies of the forms which must be completed by applicants.

The information package also contains details of the price-based allocation system under which the licences will be allocated, the reserve price for the licences, the conditions that apply to commercial broadcasting licences, and the licence areas of the available licences, licence area populations and any areas of overlap with other licence areas.

These commercial broadcasting licences will