



The ABA is calling for submissions on its technical options discussion paper on how many new radio licences might be available in the Perth market.

# High power FM radio channels in Perth



The ABA is looking at how many high power FM frequencies might be available for new radio services in the Perth market.

The ABA has released a technical options discussion paper that identifies one high power FM frequency as available in Perth. The ABA has also identified eight other high power frequencies that may potentially be available. The effect on existing services of using each potentially available frequency is also included in the paper.

'The paper proposes some promising avenues for further investigation, and outlines some of the work that must still be done before we can be satisfied that options for increased channel capacity are viable,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'The investigatory work of the options for increasing channel capacity in Perth is expected to be time consuming, and at present the ABA's spectrum engineering

resources are fully engaged. In the meantime, the ABA hopes that by making public the avenues it intends to explore, some of that work can be undertaken by those with an interest in the outcomes of planning in Perth,' he said.

## Available frequencies

The ABA has identified one potentially available high power FM frequency in Perth (93.7 MHz), located at the Bickley transmission site.

The operating frequencies of existing services and other vacant high power frequency allotments for Perth appear in the table below. The shaded allotments indicate nine high power FM frequencies operating in Perth.

The ABA's discussion paper identifies eight potentially available FM frequencies in Perth (91.3, 100.1, 100.9, 101.7, 103.3, 104.1, 104.9 and 105.7 MHz).

Two of these high power FM frequencies would require existing FM radio services (community radio service 6CCR Fremantle and 6RKR Rockingham) to move to an alternative frequency. The other six frequencies have the potential to cause interference to reception of SSW3 or ABSW5 Bunbury.

Perth (existing frequencies)	
99.3 6JJJ	50 kW+3dB, -3dB, OD
98.5 6SON	16 kW, DA
97.7 6ABCFM	50 kW+3dB, -3dB, OD
96.9 6SBSFM	50 kW+3dB, -3dB, DA
96.1 6NOW	20 kW+3dB, -3dB, DA
95.3 6EBA	16 kW, DA
94.5 6JKY	20 kW+3dB, -3dB, DA
93.7 Perth (Vacant)	
92.9 6PPM	20 kW+3dB, -3dB, DA
92.1 6RTR	5 kW+3dB, -3dB, DA

The part of the spectrum containing television channels 3, 4 and 5 (called Band II) overlaps the FM radio frequency range. This situation presents difficulties in finding channels for new FM radio services which would not cause interference to the reception of these television services.

Further engineering work is required to ensure that any of these allotments could operate in Perth without potential interference problems to existing Perth and adjacent licence area services. Availability of other frequencies may hinge on many other factors.

## Future planning in the Perth radio market

Licence area planning for radio in Perth (planning priority group 4) cannot be completed until all LAPs in priority group 3 have been completed.

The ABA is scheduled to release:

- a paper on channel availability of high, medium and low power VHF-FM frequencies and for MF-AM frequencies in the Perth radio market by February 1998;
- a draft licence area plan and

discussion paper for the Perth radio market by early 1999; and

- a final licence area plan for Perth by mid-1999.

## Submissions invited

The ABA invites technical submissions on potential problems and issues associated with the use of high power FM frequencies identified in its technical options discussion paper. The ABA also invites submitters to identify any other options for high power FM frequencies that may be used in Perth without causing interference to existing broadcasting and non-broadcasting services in the area.

### Submissions

The closing date for technical submissions is

**Friday 19 December 1997**

Address submissions to:  
Planning Officer for Perth  
ABA

PO Box 34,  
Belconnen Act 2616  
and quote file number  
93/7736.

### Discussion paper

For copies of the paper,  
*Availability of High Power FM  
Frequencies for Radio in Perth*,  
call Freecall 1 800 810 241.