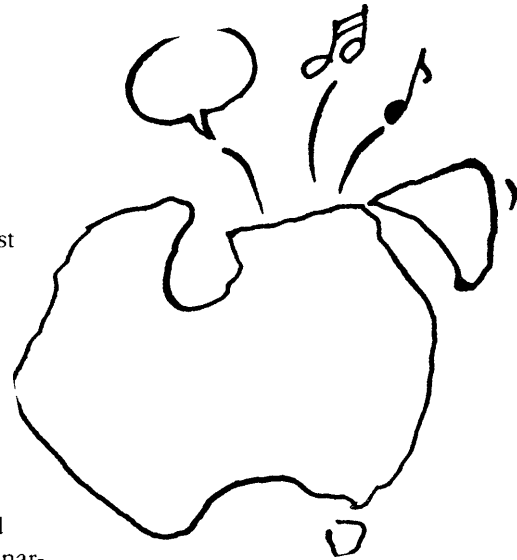




New radio services for North Queensland



The ABA has made channels available for 18 new radio services in the North Queensland region. The region comprises the radio markets of Townsville, Mackay and Charters Towers.

'The decision to make these new services available to the people of North Queensland comes as a result of the ABA's public planning process,' said Professor David Flint. 'If all these new licences are taken up, it will lead to a significant increase in the number and diversity of radio services available to listeners in the region.'

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plans for radio in the Townsville, Mackay and Charters Towers region.

Commercial radio

The ABA will make licences for two new commercial radio services available for allocation in each of the Townsville and Mackay markets.

James Cook University has expressed interest in providing one commercial FM radio service in Townsville and R G Capital Radio has expressed interest in providing two.

Two new commercial radio licences are to be made available for allocation in Mackay and R G Capital Radio has expressed interest in providing both services.

Community radio

One new community radio licence will be made available for allocation in each of Townsville, Mackay, Bowen and Palm Island.

James Cook University, Radio Rhema and the Townsville and Thuringowa Ethnic Broadcasters Association have all expressed interest in providing new community radio services at Townsville. The Bowen Regional Development Bureau expressed interest in providing a new service at Bowen; an organisation representing the local Aboriginal community expressed interest in providing a new service at Palm Island; and the Mackay Christian College and the Central Queensland Aboriginal Land Council both expressed interest in providing a new service at Mackay.

As a result of this interest, the ABA has decided to make one new community radio licence available in each of these locations.

Open narrowcasting radio

Licences for two open narrowcasting services will be made available for allocation in each of Townsville and Mackay. Licences for one open narrowcasting service will be made available for allocation in each of Ayr, Bowen, Charters Towers, Ingham, Proserpine and Sarina. Fol-

lowing interest expressed in providing open narrowcasting radio services, channel capacity for one high and one limited power open narrowcasting service will be made available for each of Townsville and Mackay; one medium power open narrowcasting service for each of Ingham, Bowen and Ayr; and one limited power open narrowcasting service for each of Proserpine, Sarina and Charters Towers.

Interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the region has been expressed by:

- TAB Queensland (Townsville and Mackay);
- J B Hubbard and LC Cavanagh (Townsville);
- Coral Coast Christian FM (Bowen);
- Australia Announce Archive (Townsville and Mackay);
- Coastal Broadcasters Pty Ltd (Ingham);
- the Lower Burdekin Development Council (Ayr);
- the Queensland Gay and Lesbian Community (Townsville, Mackay and Charters Towers); and
- Mr Phil Ward (Townsville, Ingham, Ayr, Charters Towers, Bowen, Mackay, Proserpine and Sarina).

New radio licences for Innisfail

The ABA has made channels available for four new radio services in the radio market of Innisfail, far north Queensland.

Licences will be made available for allocation for two new open narrowcasting services in Innisfail and two open narrowcasting services in Tully.

To see the licence area plans:

The radio licence area plans are available for viewing at the Townsville Municipal Library, the Mackay City Library and the Charters Towers Municipal Library. The radio LAP for Innisfail is available for viewing at the Johnstone Shire Library.

Copies can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.