



Applications invited for remote and regional WA TV licence

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: The ABA is inviting applications for a commercial television broadcasting licence to service remote and regional Western Australia.

Anyone interested in applying for the licence needs to buy the information package, *Price-based Allocations of Commercial Broadcasting Licences*, price \$50. For your copy call Briget O'Brien on (02) 9334 7826 or Kevin O'Brien on (02) 9334 7827.

ABA meeting decisions

SYDNEY: The first meeting of ABA members convened by Professor David Flint was held on 17 October 1997 in Sydney. At that meeting the ABA decided:

- how it will conduct its business and carry out the functions specified in the Broadcasting Services Act;
- to set up the following committees: Planning and Allocation; On-line Services; Digital Broadcasting; Audit; Corporate, Finance and Administration; Policy and Strategy; Legal and Enforcement; and Codes and Standards; and
- to review the structure and decision-making by delegates and authorised officers in the coming months.

At the meeting on 30 October, the ABA:

- approved final licence area plans for radio markets in north Queensland.

At the meeting on 12 November in Melbourne the ABA:

- requested the Policy and Strategy Committee to do a stocktake of projects carried out in the past five years and determine priorities for the next three years;
- approved the release for, public comment, of two discussion papers for draft licence area plans for Darling Downs radio markets and the mid north coast of NSW radio markets;
- approved the release of the final licence area plan for the radio market for Innisfail; and
- approved a technical options paper, *Availability of High Power FM Frequencies for Radio in Perth*.

New radio services proposed for Darling Downs

DARLING DOWNS: The ABA is proposing to make nine new radio services available in the Darling Downs region of Queensland. The region includes the radio markets of Toowoomba/Warwick and Kingaroy.

In its draft licence area plans, the ABA proposes to make licences available for two new commercial radio services, six new community radio services and one new national radio service.

Commercial radio

The ABA proposes to make one new commercial radio licence available for allocation in the Toowoomba/Warwick area. This follows interest expressed by potential service providers.

The ABA will make a second radio licence available to the licensee of the existing AM commercial service 4SB Kingaroy, under section 39 of the Broadcasting Services Act. The new service will operate on the FM band. The ABA is seeking comments on the technical specifications of this proposed new service as well as comments on the other services contained in the Kingaroy draft LAP.

Community radio

The ABA proposes to make one new community radio licence available for allocation in each of Cherbourg, Dalby, Gayndah, Warwick and Wondai, and an additional community radio licence in Toowoomba.

Open narrowcasting services

The ABA is seeking detailed information to allow further consideration of the provision of open narrowcasting services in the Toowoomba/Warwick and Kingaroy markets.

Inforadio Australia Pty Ltd, Queensland Gay & Lesbian Association and the TAB have expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the markets.

Nine new radio services proposed for mid north coast of NSW

NSW: The ABA is proposing to make nine new radio services available in the mid north coast region of New South Wales. The region includes the radio markets of Coffs Harbour, Grafton and Kempsey.

In its draft licence area plans, the ABA proposes to make licences available for two new commercial radio services, four new community radio services and three new open narrowcasting radio services.

Planning for television services in the region is scheduled for 1999.

Commercial radio

The ABA is proposing to make two new commercial radio licences available, one in Coffs Harbour and one in Kempsey, making three in each. This follows interest expressed

Applications must be lodged at the address shown in the information package by midnight, Thursday 26 February 1998.

Licence area plans:

The ABA's plans and discussion documents are available for viewing at local libraries. The documents can also be obtained from the ABA by telephoning Freecall 1800 810 241.

Submissions

Any parties interested in commenting on the ABA's options, preliminary views and draft licence area plans should obtain a copy of *The ABA's General Approach to Planning* and frame their submission to answer the questions sought by the ABA. Copies are available by telephoning Freecall 1800 810 241, or through the ABA Web site: <http://www.dca.gov.au/aba/hpcov.htm>

Send written

submissions to:

Planning Officer for
Darling Downs
ABA
PO Box 34
Belconnen ACT 2616

by 19 December 1997.



News Update

Submissions

Send written submissions to:
Planning Officer for
Coffs Harbour, Grafton
and Kempsey
ABA
PO Box 34
Belconnen, ACT 2616
by **17 December 1997**.

Draft licence area plans

The ABA's preliminary views and draft licence area plans are available in local libraries in Newcastle, Muswellbrook and Taree.

Submissions

Written submissions should be sent to the Planning Officer for Newcastle, Muswellbrook and Taree
ABA
PO Box 34
Belconnen, ACT 2616,
by **16 January 1998**.

by potential service providers: Pacific Broadcasting Pty Ltd; Central Zone FM Service Pty Ltd; RG Capital Radio Ltd; TR Connexions; and Creative Native Australia.

It is also proposing to increase the licence area of the two commercial radio services in Grafton, 2GF and 2CLR.

Community radio

There is interest in providing a community radio service in Grafton and Kempsey, and an additional (second) community radio service in Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie. The ABA has therefore proposed to make one new community radio licence available in each of Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Kempsey and Port Macquarie.

Open narrowcasting radio

There is interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services throughout the Coffs Harbour, Grafton and Kempsey regions ranging from low power tourist information services to high power racing radio services. Given available technical capacity in these markets, the ABA considers it is feasible to plan one medium power service in each of Coffs Harbour, Grafton and Kempsey.

New radio services proposed for Hunter region of NSW

HUNTER: The ABA is proposing to make licences for at least 12 new radio services available for allocation in the Hunter region of New South Wales. The region includes the radio markets of Newcastle, Muswellbrook and Taree.

The ABA proposes to make licences available for one new commercial radio licence, eight

new community radio licences and three new open narrowcasting radio services.

'These proposals lay the groundwork for a significant expansion of radio broadcasting services in the Hunter region,' said Professor David Flint.

Commercial radio services

The ABA is proposing to make one new commercial radio licence (i.e. fifth) available for allocation in Newcastle, and is inviting submissions on whether it should make a second (i.e. sixth) commercial licence available.

Parties who have expressed interest in providing new commercial radio services, other than existing broadcasters, are: Century Radio Limited; Limic Communications Pty Ltd; SAT FM; and SEA FM (now known as R G Capital Pty Ltd).

The ABA is also proposing to make channel capacity available for a translator at Merriwa for commercial radio station 2VLY Muswellbrook.

Community radio

The ABA has proposed to make one new community radio licence available for allocation in Newcastle, and is inviting submissions on whether it should make a second licence available.

The ABA is also proposing to make new community radio licences available for allocation for each of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens and Taree.

Open narrowcasting radio

The draft licence area plans propose that one high power AM open narrowcasting radio service be made available for Newcastle. The ABA is also proposing that open narrowcasting radio licences be made available for allocation in Muswellbrook and Taree.

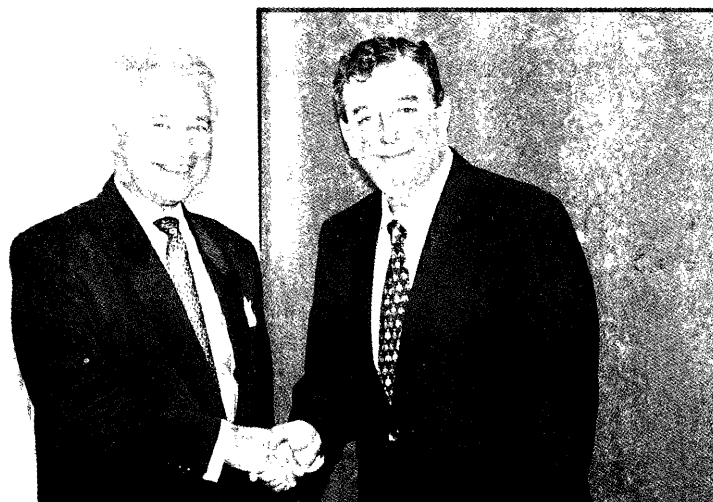
There is interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services throughout the Newcastle, Muswellbrook and Taree regions, ranging from limited power tourist information services to high power racing radio services.

Television

Planning for television services in the region is scheduled for 1999.

International content rating group

UNITED KINGDOM: In July 1997 the ABA was invited to join the Internet Watch Foundation in the UK, the Recreational Software Advisory



Professor Flint and Lord Wakeham, Chairman, British Press Complaints Commission, at their recent meeting at the ABA in Sydney to discuss issues of common concern.