



Send written comments to:
**The Manager
 Allocations and
 Renewals Section
 ABA
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The period for public comment on the licence application closes on Friday 28 February 1997. The ABA may make comments submitted available to the applicant.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Where there is only one applicant, the ABA will assess the application against criteria set out in the Broadcasting Services Act.

A copy of the application is available at Fitzroy Crossing Public Library, ph (091) 91 5116.

Community radio: ABA invites applications and comments

SYDNEY: The ABA is seeking applications for new community radio broadcasting licences for Kangaroo Island and Meekatharra, Western Australia.

'These are the first new community radio broadcasting licences to be offered in these areas under the ABA's new merit-based allocation system,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

Under this licence allocation system, in areas where there is only one applicant for a community broadcasting licence, the ABA need only decide if the applicant merits a licence. When there is more than one applicant, the ABA may also have to choose on the basis of comparative merit. Alternatively, applicants could combine to present a unified application.

'The licences are being offered in these areas because the ABA's planning process has identified a demand for a new community service that is operated by people living in these areas,' Mr Webb said.

Prospective applicants should obtain a copy of a free information booklet, *Allocation of Community Broadcasting Licences (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. The booklet also contains the application form, Form ABA 32, *Application for the Allocation of a Community Broadcasting Licence (Broadcasting Services Bands)*.

For copies of the booklet and information about how to apply for a community broadcasting licence, call the ABA's Allocations and Renewals Section on (02) 9334 7700.

Applications for the licence on Kangaroo Island must be received before 5.00 p.m. Monday 17 March 1997.

Applications for the licence in Meekatharra, Western Australia must be received before 5.00 p.m. Friday 21 March 1997.

ABA gives all clear for ONE FM sale

KATOOMBA: The purchase of commercial radio station ONE FM Katoomba by the Australian Radio Network (ARN) would not result in a breach of the 'two-stations-to-a-market rule', the ABA has decided.

'The Broadcasting Services Act does not prohibit ownership of a radio station in each of the three overlapping licence areas of Katoomba, Western Sydney and Sydney,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'This outcome, which appears to be in conflict with the two-stations-to-a-market rule, arises due to the unique nature of the 2UUS licence area, which was determined in the late 1970s,' Mr Webb said. 'The 2UUS licence area was superimposed to a major extent on the overlapping Sydney and Katoomba radio licence areas. This is the only example of its kind in Australia.'

The Australian Radio Network currently owns 2UUS Western Sydney (broadcasting under the station identifier 2WS FM) and 2WFM Sydney (broadcasting under the station identifier MIX FM).

The ABA had examined the proposed transaction to establish whether it would put ARN in breach of the two-stations-to-a-market rule in the Broadcasting Services Act (see background).

It is a matter for the Foreign Investment Review Board as to what recommendation is made about the transaction under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act.

New commercial radio licences for Coffs Harbour and Grafton

SYDNEY: The ABA has allocated second commercial radio licences to Commercial Radio Coffs Harbour Limited, owner of 2CS and Westlawn Investment Company Limited, owner of 2GF. The new Coffs Harbour FM service 2CSF will broadcast on 105.5 MHz while the new Grafton service, 2CLR, will broadcast on 104.7 MHz.

'These new FM licences should result in distinctly different services in each of the Coffs Harbour and Grafton markets,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'The new services will cover the same areas as the existing AM services and will increase the choice of radio services available to local listeners.'

The fee for each of the licences was \$10 000.