



Commercial Radio Coffs Harbour and Westlawn Investment Company now have 12 months to get the new services up and running.

The new licences follow a change to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* which allows for early licensing of additional commercial radio licences in single service markets. A total of 54 single service markets became eligible for an additional commercial radio licence under the new licensing arrangements. A new licence for the Mildura market was allocated under the previous scheme.

'The ABA has now allocated 49 new radio licences to existing operators in single service markets and will be allocating new licences in the remaining markets over the coming months,' said Mr Webb.

The ABA has already granted second licences to commercial radio broadcasters in Armidale, Bathurst, Bega, Cooma, Dubbo, Griffith, Goulburn, Gunnedah, Inverell, Lithgow, Mudgee, Orange, Parkes, Taree, Young (NSW); Ballarat, Colac, Horsham, Mildura, Swan Hill, Wangaratta (Vic); Charleville, Charters Towers, Emerald, Gympie, Innisfail, Longreach, Nambour, Roma (Qld); Mt Gambier, Renmark (SA); Albany, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Karratha, Mandurah, Merredin, Narrogin, Northam, Port Hedland (WA); Devonport, Queenstown (Tas) and Darwin (NT).

ABA tests of Bunbury FM channel are successful

BUNBURY: Test transmissions by the ABA from Mt Lennard have resulted in an all clear

for operation of a new commercial FM service in the Bunbury region, on 95.7 MHz.

'The tests were very successful and showed a new commercial FM radio service could operate from Mt Lennard without causing interference to television reception,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The ABA test transmissions, which ran from 22 - 30 December 1996, were to check whether use of the FM channel 95.7 MHz would cause any interference to reception of the Golden West Network commercial television service on channel 3, or ABC television on channel 5. Both these television services operate on channels which overlap the FM radio band.

The success of the tests means there is no impediment to Radio West's new commercial FM radio service for Bunbury. The service will operate on 95.7 MHz using vertical polarisation and is expected to commence operation before November this year.

ABA allocates new commercial television licence for Darwin

DARWIN: The ABA has allocated a new commercial television broadcasting licence for the Darwin area to Telecasters Australia Limited.

Telecasters Australia bid \$2.1 million for the licence at an auction held by the ABA on 29 October 1996.

'The allocation of a new commercial television licence in Darwin represents the successful culmination of the ABA's planning process in the Darwin area,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'The people of Darwin can look forward to the introduction of this new service.'

The Darwin licence is the second commercial television broadcasting licence to be allocated this month under the ABA's price-based allocation system. The first licence was allocated to Prime Television (Victoria) Pty Ltd for the Mildura/Sunraysia area. These licences are the first new commercial television licences to be offered to new players since a third licence for Perth was granted in 1986.

Telecasters Australia Limited must commence a service in Darwin within one year of being allocated the licence (or seek the ABA's permission for an extension of this period).

