



The ABA has finalised licence area plans making FM channels available for new community and open narrowcasting radio services in Bathurst, Lithgow and Parkes.

New radio services for Bathurst, Lithgow and Parkes

The ABA has made FM channels available for new community and open narrowcasting radio services in Bathurst, Lithgow and Parkes, New South Wales.

The decisions are contained in the ABA's final licence area plans for radio in Bathurst, Lithgow and Parkes.

'The ABA can now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available. This marks the beginning of a new stage in radio planning for the more populated areas of New South Wales. The ABA will be announcing further new services to be made available in other areas of Central NSW over the coming weeks,' said Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

In Bathurst, FM channels have been made available for a new community radio service and an open narrowcasting radio service. Two FM channels have been reserved for new national broadcasting services.

In Lithgow, FM channels have been made available for a new community radio service and an open narrowcasting service.

The licence for the community radio service in Lithgow will not be available for allocation for at least two years. This will give existing aspirant groups time to con-

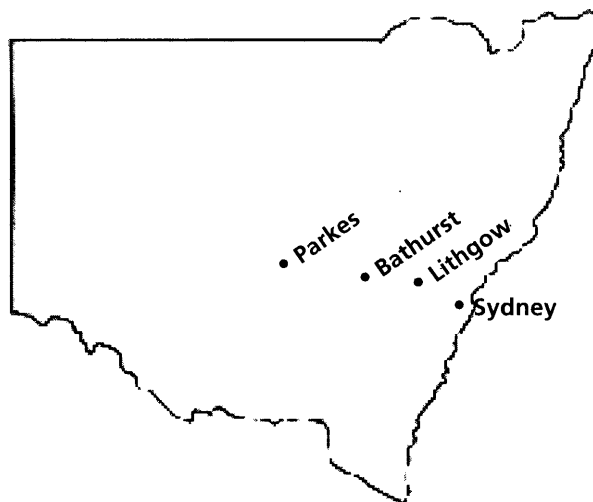
solidate and new aspirant groups the opportunity to emerge,' said Mr Webb.

Channels have been made available for new open narrowcasting services in Parkes and Condobolin and a new national radio service in Condobolin.

The ABA has decided to allow 2LVR, the existing community radio service in Forbes/Parkes, to increase its operating power and to extend its licence area to match that of the commercial radio services 2PK and 2ROK Parkes. The ABA has also provided an FM channel for transmission of the 2LVR service at Condobolin.

The decision to make the community services available follows interest expressed by aspirant community radio groups. Any new community radio licences will be made available by means of a merit-based allocation process. The ABA expects to call for applications for the Bathurst licence from interested groups in the next few months.

The decision to make the open narrowcasting services available follows interest expressed by aspirant open narrowcasting operators. The licences for these services will be issued via an auction, expected to be held before the end of the year.



Commercial radio

No additional commercial radio licences will be made available in Bathurst, Lithgow or Parkes.

The ABA allocated second commercial radio licences to the licensees of 2BS Bathurst, 2LT Lithgow and 2PK Parkes in February and March 1996. The new Bathurst service, on FM 99.3 MHz, commenced in December 1996. Neither the second Lithgow service (2ICE on 95.3 MHz) nor the second service in Parkes (2ROK on 95.5 MHz) have yet commenced.

Community radio

Bathurst Christian Broadcasters, 2MBS-FM and 2RPH (the latter two both based in Sydney) have expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Bathurst.

Lithgow Community Broad-

casters, 2MBS-FM and 2RPH have expressed interest in providing a community radio service in Lithgow.

The ABA has decided to delay allocation of the Lithgow community radio licence for at least two years. Any new community radio licences will be made available by means of a merit-based allocation process.

Open narrowcasting

Bathurst Broadcasters Pty Ltd (the licensee of commercial radio services 2BS and 2BXS Bathurst), 2KY Sport and Talk and Western Visitor Radio (based in Dubbo) have all expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services in Bathurst and Lithgow.

2KY Sport and Talk and Western Visitor Radio have expressed interest in providing an open narrowcasting



radio service in Parkes and Condobolin.

All the licences made available for open narrowcasting services will be allocated via a price-based allocation system.

ABA planning process

The release of licence area plans is stage three of the planning process. The first stage was completed in September 1993 with the release of the ABA's priorities for plan-

ning services across Australia. The ABA determined five priority groups of planning zones, with group one having the highest priority. Stage two is also complete with the publication of the frequency allotment plan (FAP), setting out the number of radio and television channels in particular areas of Australia. With priorities set and the FAP in place, the ABA can now complete this third and final stage of the planning process.

Licence area plans for all group one planning zones - comprising remote Australia and parts of regional Australia - were completed in February this year. The licence area plan for group two planning zone Perth television was also completed in February this year. The licence area plans for group two planning zones Central NSW and Central Victoria/Central Murray are now being finalised. The ABA expects to release a draft licence

area plan for the remaining group two planning zone, Albury, Shepparton and Wangaratta, in the second half of 1997.

The radio licence area plans for Bathurst, Lithgow and Parkes are available for viewing at local public libraries, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.

Programs Granted C Classification

Programs granted C or P classification between 9 April 1997 and 9 May 1997. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager, Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7840.

Title	Origin	Class.	New/ Renewal	Decision date	Applicant
ANDRIEKA THE CLOWN	RUSSIA	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
ANTON	NORWAY	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
AS SEEN ON TV (EP 3)	ENGLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
BEETHOVEN LIVES UPSTAIRS	CANADA	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
BOBBY'S WORLD (SERIES 7)	USA	C	New	15.4.97	Network Ten Brisbane
BOLT - FULLY AUTOMATIC	SWEDEN	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
CHESS KIDS	USA	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
COPING WITH CHRISTMAS	ENGLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
COPING WITH GROWN UPS	ENGLAND	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
GET REAL	USA	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
GOOD HEALTH - NO BULLYING HERE	ENGLAND	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
GOODSPORTS (SERIES 5)	AUSTRALIA	C	New	15.4.97	WIN Television Tasmania
HOW DINOSAURS LEARNED TO FLY	CANADA	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
IN TRANSIT	NORWAY	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
IT'LL NEVER WORK - SCIENCE DESIGN SPECIAL	ENGLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
KATIUSHA	RUSSIA	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
KEITH	ENGLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
OPEN A DOOR - ZEZE	BRAZIL	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
SPAGETTI WOMAN	GERMANY	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
SPARROW	AUSTRALIA	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE BLUE ROSE	POLAND	C	New	7.5.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE CINEMA TICKET	NORWAY	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE GIANT BEAR	FINLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE LOWDOWN - STRICTLY WIMBLEDON	ENGLAND	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE ORCHARD	NZ	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE PEARLS AND LENE	NORWAY	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children
THE REDHEAD	CZECH REPUBLIC	C	New	29.4.97	Festival of television for Australian children

C - children's program