

# News Update

**Table 1: Licences which have been advertised:**

Area	No. of licences	Closing date for applications
Mildura *	1	allocated 11 September 1996
Ceduna	1	allocated 20 February 1997
York	1	allocated 14 May 1997
Fitzroy Crossing	1	allocated 15 May 1997
Darwin	2	assessments provided to the 3 applicants on 12 March 1997
Derby	1	closed
Broome	1	closed
Halls Creek	1	closed
Torres Strait	1	closed
Mt Isa	2	closed
Kangaroo Island	1	closed
Meekatharra	1	closed
Albany	1	closed
	15	

Note that there is a second licence available in Mildura (see Table 2) which will be re-advertised. An earlier allocation exercise lapsed with the withdrawal of the only applicant.

**Table 2: Licences for which applications are yet to be called:**

State	Area	No. of licences
NSW	Bathurst	1
	Lord Howe Island	1
Vic	Mildura	1
WA	Esperance	1
	Geraldton	2
	Kalgoorlie	1
	Merredin (Bruce Rock)	1
	Northampton	1
NT	Katherine	1
Territories	Christmas Island	1
	Cocos Island	1
		12

The ABA welcomes comment on the order and timing for the allocation of these licences.

**Table 3: Licences planned but not yet available for allocation:**

State	Area	No. of licences	Licence available after
NSW	Bourke	1	8 January 1998
	Lightning Ridge	1	8 January 1998
	Lithgow	1	14 May 1999
Qld	Cunnamulla	1	27 August 1997
	Riverland	1	22 August 1998
WA	Bridgetown	1	27 November 1998
	Bunbury	1	27 November 1998
	Collie	1	27 November 1998
	Kalgoorlie	1	16 October 1997
	Katanning	1	10 October 1997
	Margaret River	1	27 November 1998
	Mandurah	1	19 July 1998
	Narogin	1	10 October 1998
	Northam	1	27 August 1998
	Wagin	1	10 October 1998
	NT	Boorooloola	1
		16	

Allocation has been deferred in these areas detailed in Table 3 in order to allow time for community broadcasting groups to organise and build necessary support and skills before an allocation exercise commences. Note that the dates given are not a timetable for when the licences will be allocated but rather the dates after which the ABA will consider offering the licences.

The ABA will publish its community allocations work plan in *ABA Update* each quarter. Comments on the order and timing of the allocation of available licences may be submitted in writing to: The Manager, Allocation and Renewal Section, ABA.

## Logan City narrowcaster asked to change its service

LOGAN CITY: The ABA has asked FM 88 in Logan City to change the nature of its service so that it provides a low power radio narrowcasting service. The request came after an ABA investigation found the service was not complying with the narrowcasting criteria in the Broadcasting Services Act.

'We have asked FM 88 to tell us how it proposes to change the service so that it can comply with the narrowcasting criteria and continue to broadcast,' said Mr Nick Herd, ABA Manager, Codes and Conditions.

The ABA wrote to FM 88 on 8 May asking it to reply with a proposal for changing its service by today, Tuesday 27 May. The ABA has not directed FM 88 to cease broadcasting, nor has it said it would fine the broadcaster for failure to comply with its request to change the service.

'It is up to FM 88 how they change the service and we have offered guidance and assistance on how they might do that,' said Mr Herd.

FM 88 has not yet made any written response to the ABA's request.

Narrowcast services are not commercial or community broadcasting services, which are individually licensed to provide programs to the community as a whole. Narrowcasters operate under a class licence or standing authority to broadcast, but must be limited in one of the ways set out in the Act.

The majority of narrowcast radio services target a special interest group or provide programming of limited appeal such as local tourist information, racing information or programs for non-English speaking audiences. Others are of limited duration, such as for special events like local agricultural shows or are provided in strictly limited locations, such as shopping centres, hotels or sporting arenas.