



## **New commercial TV licence for remote and regional WA**

The ABA has allocated a new commercial television licence to serve Remote and Regional Western Australia to WIN International Sales Pty Ltd.

WIN International bid \$36 million for the licence at a licence allocation exercise conducted by the ABA in Perth on 1 April 1998. Full payment for the licence was received by the ABA on 20 May.

'The people of Remote and Regional Western Australia can look forward to the introduction of a second commercial television service in

the near future,' said Professor David Flint,

ABA Chairman.

'At present, people living outside the Perth area have access to only one free-to-air commercial television service. The introduction of a second service will greatly increase the range and diversity of

programming available to viewers,' he said.

WIN is required to commence its service within 12 months of being allocated the licence, or within a longer period as approved by the ABA.

In addition to the standard licence conditions, the licence is subject to the condition that the licensee must provide its service so as to enable its reception by at least 60 per cent of the licence area population within twelve months of commencement of service, and 85 per cent of the licence area population on the fourth anniversary of the commencement of service.

## **Proposed change of frequencies for commercial radio services in Katanning and Narrogin**

The ABA proposes to change the frequencies of the second commercial radio services in

Katanning and Narrogin, Western Australia, from the AM band to the FM band.

The proposal to change these frequencies follows successful test transmissions conducted by the licensee, Radio West Broadcasters Pty Ltd.

The ABA released a consultation paper for comment on 3 June. The submission period closed on 12 June 1998.

In its October 1996 decision finalising the licence area plans for radio in Katanning and Narrogin, the ABA indicated that it was, 'prepared to vary these licence area plans to assign FM channels for the section 39 services (the second commercial radio services) at Katanning and Narrogin, if it can be demonstrated via test transmissions that FM channels are available and the particular FM channels are suitable for use in Katanning and Narrogin'.

The proposed 6KAN Katanning transmitter is planned to operate on FM 94.9 MHz from a nominal site at the 6NA site in Tuck Road, Katanning, with a maximum effective radiated power of 5 kW.

The proposed 6NAN Narrogin transmitter is planned to operate on FM 100.5 MHz from a nominal site 5km south east of Narrogin, with a maximum effective radiated power of 5 kW.

The ABA's consultation paper is available for viewing at the Katanning and Narrogin libraries or from the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241.

## **New community radio licences for Alexandra/Eildon and Wangaratta**

The ABA has allocated two community radio broadcasting licences in Victoria.

A licence to serve the Alexandra/Eildon area was allocated to Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc. The new service will broadcast on 106.9 MHz from Devils River.

The licence for Wangaratta was allocated to Wangaratta Community Radio Association Inc. and its service will broadcast on 101.3 MHz from Mt Stanley.

The licensees have 12 months to get the new services up and running.

The ABA has allocated these licences after consulting with the local communities to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area. The new community radio licences were advertised in local media, and the applications received were assessed, giving particular regard to whether the proposed services would meet existing and future community needs.



The Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters has announced it is redrafting the Commercial Radio Codes of Practice to include specific reference to language, sex and sexual behaviour and the portrayal of violence. FARB expects to release the draft code for comment in the next few weeks.



# News Update

## Alexandra/Eildon

In the radio licence area plan for the Shepparton region, released on 21 September 1997, the ABA determined one new community FM radio broadcasting service be made available in the Alexandra/Eildon region.

The ABA advertised for applications for the new licence on 25 February 1998. One application was received for the advertised licence, from Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.

## Wangaratta

In the radio licence area plan for the Wangaratta region, released on 21 September 1997, the ABA determined one new community FM radio broadcasting service be made available in Wangaratta.

The ABA advertised for applications for the new licence on 27 February 1998. One application was received for the advertised licence, from Wangaratta Community Radio Association Inc.

(99.3 MHz), Corowa, Culcairn, Henty and Holbrook, NSW; Benalla, Euroa and Wangaratta, Victoria; and Atherton (two licences) Ayr, Biloela, Bowen, Innisfail, Mackay (103.5 MHz), Mossman, Rockhampton (99.9 MHz) and Tully, Queensland.

The applicant for these licences will be issued the licence for the reserve price, subject to the requirements of the *Radiocommunications (Issue of Broadcasting (Narrowcasting) Transmitter Licences) Determination* including payment of the price of the licence, being met.

If a successful applicant, either a single applicant or a highest bidder at auction, does not meet any of the requirements of the Determination, the applicant will not be issued the licence. The ABA may then re-offer the licence.

The duration of each licence is five years.

No applications were received for the licences to serve Charters Towers, Dysart, Emerald, Mackay (93.9 MHz), Middlemount, Moranbah, Proserpine, Rockhampton (92.7 MHz), Saraji, Sarina, Tieri and Townsville, Queensland and Seymour, Victoria.

The ABA will accept expressions of interest for these licences, as well as other licences which have previously been offered but not taken up and are currently 'on the shelf'.

## Bunbury community considering self-help for SBS

The Bunbury City Council recently decided that it could not afford the \$1.5 million costs to install its own SBS transmitter at Mt Lennard to provide the community with its first SBS service.

The Council had previously been granted a licence by the ABA to operate a self-help SBS transmitter at Mt Lennard. This would require a relatively high power transmitter to serve Bunbury and the South West of Western Australia.

Mt Lennard is the established transmission site for all of the television services intended to serve the South West of Western Australia: ABC and GWN television, all of Bunbury's FM services, and the new WIN International UHF commercial television service due to start before April 1999.

Following discussions with the ABA, the Council has decided to consider a less powerful and more local transmitter to provide SBS to Bunbury. This smaller facility is likely to 'borrow' the channel planned for Mt Lennard since there are no other groups seeking to provide the local SBS service.



## New commercial and open narrowcasting licences

On 1 May the ABA called for applications for seven commercial radio licences and, on 8 May, for 45 licences for open narrowcasting radio services to serve regional areas in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

The ABA will conduct two auctions in June to allocate licences which received more than one application. The first, in Sydney on 25 June, is for 10 open narrowcasting licences: Albury (1296 kHz), Berrigan, Deniliquin, Finley, Jerilderie, Moama, Mulwalla, Tocumwal and Wakool, NSW; and Shepparton, Victoria.

On 26 June in Brisbane, the ABA will auction licences for seven new commercial radio services in regional Queensland: one in Bundaberg, and two in each of Cairns, Mackay and Townsville; and four new open narrowcasting services: Bundaberg (two licences), Ingham and Maryborough.

The reserve price for each commercial radio licence is \$100 000 and for the open narrowcasting licences is \$4000.

The results of these auctions will be in the August issue of *ABA Update*.

## Open narrowcasting licences

The ABA received only one application for open narrowcasting licences for Albury