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New radio services for Gunnedah, Moree and Narrabri

breaches and accepted the ABA's findings in respect of others. Nine has assured the ABA that it will take steps to limit the likelihood of further breaches occurring.

Code of practice

The Code of Practice was developed by the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations pursuant to section 123 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Section 5 of the code covers the time allowed to be occupied by non-program matter.

The ABA has made FM channels available for five new radio services in the Gunnedah and Moree regions of New South Wales.

Channels have been made available for three new community radio services, one each in Gunnedah, Moree and Narrabri. A channel for a high power open narrowcasting service has been made available in Gunnedah and a channel for a medium power open narrowcasting service has been made available in Moree.

The licences for the community radio services in Gunnedah and Moree will not be available for allocation for at least two years. This will give existing aspirant groups the opportunity to consolidate and new aspirant groups time to emerge.

The timing for the licence allocation of the open narrowcasting service in Gunnedah is dependent on the community radio service in Tamworth, 2YOU, changing frequency.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plans for radio in Gunnedah and Moree.

Community radio

Narrabri Shire Community Radio Inc. has expressed inter-

est in providing a community radio service in Narrabri and 2RPH has expressed interest in providing services in both Gunnedah and Moree.

The ABA has decided to delay allocation of the Gunnedah and Moree community radio licences for at least two years to allow time for RPH to obtain funding and to also allow for new groups to emerge. Any new community radio licences will be made available by means of a merit-based allocation process.

Open narrowcasting

NSW Race Narrowcasts Pty Ltd has expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services in Gunnedah and Moree.

The licence for an open narrowcasting service in Gunnedah will be available for allocation after 2YOU Tamworth changes frequency.

The ABA expects to finalise the Tamworth LAP in the near future.

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

National radio

The licence area plan for Moree reserves spectrum capacity for the existing four national radio services operating in the Upper Namoi. Goondiwindi, Lightning Ridge and Walgett each have ABC Radio National and ABC Regional Radio transmitted locally. □

Details of the radio licence area plan for Gunnedah and Moree are available for viewing at local public libraries, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

5.5.2 at all other times—up to 16 minutes.

5.6 In 'P' and 'C' periods scheduled in accordance with the Children's Television Standards:

5.6.1 no commercials may be broadcast in any 'P' period;
5.6.2 each 30 minutes of a 'C' period may contain no more than 5 minutes of commercials and one minute of 'G'-classified program promotions or station identification. □

Copies of the investigation report are available from the ABA, price \$10. The report is also available on the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au.