



News Update

Variations to licence area plans for Cairns and Innisfail

The ABA is proposing to vary the radio licence area plans for Cairns and Innisfail. The proposed variations relate to the technical conditions for new open narrowcasting services for Cairns and Innisfail and for the existing community radio service 4CCR Cairns.

The radio licence area plans for Cairns and Innisfail were determined in October and November 1996 respectively. The plans made channels available for an open narrowcasting radio service in each of Cairns and Innisfail. The plans also made a channel available for the 4CCR service to move frequency. The channel made available in Innisfail for an open narrowcasting service (801 kHz) is currently used by the National Transmission Agency (NTA) for a national service in Cairns. The NTA has revised its previous advice that it would no longer need this frequency and has requested the frequency not be made available in Innisfail. 4CCR has revised its previous request and no longer wishes to change frequency. The ABA would not ordinarily vary a licence area plan in this situation. However, due to the need to make the 801 kHz channel available in Cairns, the ABA is proposing to also change the frequency determined for the 4CCR service.

The ABA is seeking public comment on applications for a community radio broadcasting licence to serve the Albury area of NSW.

The ABA received two applications for the licence, from Albury-Wodonga Christian Broadcasters Inc. and Association for the Blind.

A public file, containing the applications and other relevant information is available for inspection at Albury City Library, tel (02) 6041 6633 and Wodonga City Library, tel (02) 6055 9224.

New community radio licence for Derby, WA

The ABA has allocated a community radio licence for Derby, WA.

The licence was allocated to Derby Media Aboriginal Corporation and the new service will broadcast on 97.9 MHz on the FM band.

The licensee has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

The ABA has allocated this licence consultation with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

The proposed Derby Aboriginal Media

Corporation service will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will initially be made up of programming from Broome Aboriginal Media Association, which was allocated a community radio licence in August 1997 to serve Broome, WA and from Wangki Yupunanpurru Aboriginal Corporation, which was allocated a community broadcasting licence in May 1997 to serve Fitzroy Crossing, WA. The programming from these services is expected to include daily current affairs/news bulletins covering local/regional/national news, children/youth programs, local Aboriginal language and culture programs, and magazine shows with an Aboriginal focus.

Metropolitan radio submissions

Earlier this year, the ABA held discussions with existing and aspirant broadcasters in the mainland metropolitan markets and surrounding regional markets.

At the end of April, the ABA invited interested parties to submit evidence in support of their proposals.

To date, the ABA has received 428 submissions. The breakdown is as follows:

Brisbane area:	177
Sydney area:	128
Melbourne area:	65
Adelaide area:	33
Perth area:	25

All submissions are available for public inspection at the ABA's Canberra office. Those interested in inspecting the submissions should contact Mike Salloom on tel: (02) 6256 2821.

Arrangements are being finalised with the Australian Communications Authority to make copies of the submissions available for inspection at each of the Authority's capital city offices, except Sydney. In Sydney, copies of the submissions will be available for inspection at the ABA library, while an index of submissions will be available on the ABA's web site <www.aba.gov.au>. These arrangements are expected to be in place by mid September.

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Issued for radio broadcasters in the period 1 July 1998 to 31 July 1998, in order of area served.

Licensee	Area served	Frequency	Period	Issue date
Australian Capital Territory				
ArtSound FM	Canberra	103.1	1.8.98 - 31.1.99	28.7.98
Canberra Christian Radio Ltd	Canberra	107.1	1.8.98 - 31.1.99	24.7.98