



New radio services for Kingaroy

The ABA has made channels available for five new radio services in the Queensland radio market of Kingaroy.

Channels for new community radio services will be made available in each of Cherbourg, Gayndah and Wondai. There is one known aspirant group in each area: Cherbourg Community Council in Cherbourg; Central Burnett Community Radio Group in Gayndah; and Community Radio of Wondai (CROW-FM) in Wondai. The new Wondai community radio service will also serve Kingaroy.

Two town-only open narrowcasting services will also be made available in Kingaroy. Country Classics FM, CMP Services, and TAB Queensland have expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting services in Kingaroy.

The ABA has planned an additional transmitter for commercial radio service 4KRY Kingaroy to serve Gayndah and Mundubbera. No additional commercial radio service has been planned for the Kingaroy area.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plans for radio in the Kingaroy area.

Up to 8 new radio services proposed for Canberra

In a draft licence area plan for the Canberra market, the ABA proposes to make channels available for three new community radio services (two in Canberra and one in Queanbeyan) and three new open narrowcasting radio services (in Queanbeyan, Williamsdale and Yass).

The ABA is seeking submissions on whether vacant FM channels identified in the plan should be made available for either a new commercial radio service or an open narrowcasting service in Canberra. The plan also identifies a vacant channel for a new AM service in Canberra (although this is dependent on the existing community radio service 2XX converting to the FM band). The ABA is also seeking submissions on what type of service should be made available on the AM channel.

Capacity will also be reserved for three new national radio services in the Canberra area.

The ABA's options for radio services in the Canberra area, and the draft licence area plan are available for viewing at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

Call for applications: radio licences

On 30 October, the invited applications for 18 open narrowcasting services in regional Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Those interested in applying for any of the available licences must purchase an information package, *Price-based Allocation of Transmitter Licences for Open Narrowcasting Services* from the ABA, price \$40. (See back cover.)

On 1 October, the ABA invited applications for three new commercial radio broadcasting licences in Queensland. Two licences were offered in the Rockhampton/Gladstone market and one in Maryborough. The application period closed on 30 October 1998.

Bendigo community radio

The ABA has asked for public comment on applications for two community radio broadcasting licences to serve the Bendigo area of Victoria. The period for public comment closed on 21 October.

The ABA received four applications for the first licence (SL10257) from:

- Bendigo Aboriginal Transmission Association Inc (BAT FM)—Aboriginal community;
- Central Victorian Gospel Radio Inc (CVGR)—Christian community;
- Bendigo FM Education Broadcasting Inc (KLFM)—Senior citizens over 55 years; and
- Association for the Blind (RPH)—Print handicapped community.

Two of these groups, Bendigo FM Education Broadcasting Inc. and Association for the Blind, also applied for the second licence (SL1150008), which has a smaller licence area.

Community radio licence allocation hearing in Bathurst

The ABA is to conduct a hearing to assist it in allocating a new community radio licence in the Bathurst area.

The ABA has received two applications for the licence, from Bathurst Christian Broadcasters Inc. and Bathurst District and Community Radio Broadcasters Inc.

The hearing will be conducted by a panel constituted by Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman, and Mr Michael Gordon-Smith, ABA Member.

The ABA invites written submissions about either of the two applications received, and in particular on the issues listed in the notice.

Licence area plan

The radio licence area plan for Kingaroy is available for viewing at the Eidsvold Municipal Library; Gayndah Shire Libraries; Kingaroy Shire TJ O'Neill Memorial Library; Mundubbera Public Library; Murgon; Nanango and Wondai Col Morris Public Library. It is also available on the ABA web site, <www.aba.gov.au>. and from the ABA, Freecall 1800 810 241.

Submissions

The ABA invites written submissions. Send them to: Planning Officer for R9 ABA
PO Box 34,
Belconnen, ACT 2616
by **26 November 1998**.

For copies of the draft licence area plan, and the ABA's General Approach to Planning, call the ABA on 1800 810 241, or visit the ABA web site, <www.aba.gov.au>.