



ABA holds public hearing in Bathurst

The ABA held a public hearing in Bathurst on 17 November 1998 to assist it in allocating a new community radio licence in the Bathurst area.

The ABA received two applications for the licence, from Bathurst Christian Broadcasters Inc and Bathurst District and Community Radio Broadcasters Inc. The hearing was conducted by a panel constituted by Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman, and Mr Michael Gordon-Smith, ABA Member.

The ABA will now decide whether, and to whom, to allocate a community radio licence to serve Bathurst. In making its decision, the ABA will consider all the information and submissions provided during the allocation process, as well as any evidence provided at the hearing.

A public hearing file containing copies of the two applications is available for viewing at the Bathurst City Library, 70-76 Keppel Street, Bathurst. A copy of the ABA's *Guide to Community Licence Allocations*, including the relevant legislation, is also on the file.

Up to twenty new radio services proposed for south east NSW

The ABA is proposing to make channels available for up to twenty new radio services in the Illawarra and south east New South Wales. The region includes the radio markets of Bega, Cooma, Goulburn, Nowra and Wollongong.

As detailed in draft licence area plans, the ABA proposes to make channels available for a new commercial radio service in Wollongong, seven new community radio services and three new open narrowcasting radio services.

In a number of markets the ABA has identified vacant channels but not put forward a firm proposal as to what type of service it should make available. It is seeking input from listeners in those markets as to what sort of new services they would like.

In each of Cooma, Goulburn and Nowra, the ABA is seeking submissions on whether channels should be made available for either a new commercial radio service or an open narrowcasting service.

In Wollongong, the choice is between making an AM channel available for a second new commercial radio service or an open narrowcasting service.

In each of Batemans Bay, Eden, Moruya, Narooma and Wollongong, the ABA is considering the option of either a community radio service or open narrowcasting service.

Capacity will also be reserved for five new national radio services.

There is interest in providing community radio services in Batemans Bay, Bega, Bowral, Eden, the Monaro area, Moruya, Moss Vale, Narooma, Ulladulla, and Wollongong.

There is interest in providing open narrowcasting radio services throughout the Illawarra and south east NSW, ranging from limited power tourist information services to high power racing radio services.

The ABA is calling for submissions on its options and draft licence area plans which are on the ABA's web site <www.aba.gov.au> and are available for viewing at libraries in Bega, Cooma, Nowra, Goulburn, Bowral and Wollongong.

Memorandum of understanding

The ABA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Communications Authority on 25 November 1998. The MOU was signed by Professor David Flint ABA Chairman, and Mr Tony Shaw, Chairman of the ACA.

In entering into the MOU, the ABA and the ACA acknowledge the many areas of interaction between the two organisations and seek to establish a framework for complementary administration in areas of common interest.

Daylight saving— differences in broadcast times

The ABA has been advised that, since the start of daylight saving, some commercial television viewers in the Tweed Heads area of New South Wales are receiving broadcasts one hour later than usual.

Submissions

Send submissions to:
Planning Officer for R9
ABA

PO Box 34
Belconnen ACT 2616
by 10 December 1998

Anyone interested in commenting on the draft plans should obtain a copy of *The ABA's General Approach to Planning* (also available on the ABA's web site) and frame their submission to provide the information sought by the ABA. Copies of the options, draft plans and *The ABA's General Approach to Planning* are also available from the ABA by telephoning Freecall 1800 810 241.

