



News Update

- the conflict of this with consumer demand for localised product;
- differences in the approach and style of government intervention and regulation, especially from the USA;
- the role of organisations such as the OECD in sponsoring debate about the problem of economic growth but no jobs;
- the possibility that the new media will provide both.

The report shows that there is new confidence internationally in asserting the importance of the social goals of cohesion and maintaining cultural diversity. The European Union has paid particular attention to this in its work on broadcasting issues. While diversity is encouraged, the sovereignty and cultural differences of the member countries is respected and fostered. The position of the Asian and Pacific regions in these debates is discussed.

On-line services and the methods being proposed internationally to manage serious content issues are outlined. These point to a

different perspective on the part of regulatory agencies around the world: greater significance will attach to the choices that can be made by the end user rather than the originator of the material. The technology to do this is already being used and explored in international forums such as UNESCO and the OECD. The role for regulators in this process will increasingly be facultative in nature, with 'safety net' styles of underpinning for content issues.

The kinds of devices countries will use to manage these complex issues will include:

- maintaining the view that these industries have special obligations to their communities;
- maintaining the importance of the blend of our ideas and those of others, to keep ourselves informed in a sophisticated way;
- using international forums to explore consensus and difference in these value-laden areas; and
- working with businesses to achieve good social policy outcomes that also represent good business.

New licences

The following summary of new licences made available in licence area plans to date and the number allocated, by licence category, contains data as at 25 February 1998.

<i>Licence category</i>	<i>No. of new licences planned</i>	<i>No. of licences allocated</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Commercial television			
Total	4	3	Darwin, Mildura and Griffith. Applications have been invited for a commercial television licence to serve Regional and Remote WA.
Commercial radio			
		5*	Allocated at auction. * 3 more have been auctioned but licences have not yet been allocated.
Total	68	54	Allocated to existing licensee in the market. Applications for unallocated licences will be called for later this year.
Community radio			
	75	15	16 are deferred in LAPs, of the remaining 44 available for allocation, 19 allocations are underway.
Open narrowcasting			
TV	2	2	Allocated at auction.
Radio	151	80	Allocated at auction.
Total	153	82	Applications for unallocated licences will be called for later this year.
Temporary community broadcasting licences (radio)			
	not applicable	100	Channel sharing applies in some areas, notably, metropolitan areas and Gosford, NSW.
	131 applications to date		