



# Planning for radio in Adelaide and ...

## Up to 5 high power radio channels available in Adelaide

The ABA has identified five high power radio channels, one AM and four FM, as being potentially available in the Adelaide radio market.

Potentially available radio frequencies and options relating to proposed changes to existing services are contained in an Information Booklet on the Adelaide commercial radio market, released on 20 March.

'The release of this booklet signals the start of the ABA's consultation process on planning for radio in the Adelaide market,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The booklet presents five options ranging from two new high power FM services up to a maximum of four new high power FM services. Each option presents a range of technical implications associated with the proposed new services.

Part of the ABA's planning process is to use spectrum efficiently. In order to rationalise the frequencies in the Adelaide area, the ABA's options include proposals which would require some local coverage community radio services and a commercial radio translator service move to alternative frequencies to allow for additional wide coverage FM radio services in the Adelaide area.

The proposals could affect

up to three FM channels presently used by 5CST Adelaide Southern and Western Suburbs (88.5 MHz), 5DDD Adelaide (93.7 MHz) and a translator used by 5SSA Adelaide (91.1 MHz).

Dependent on information received during the consultation process the ABA is also considering the potential availability of an additional five low power FM frequencies in Adelaide.

### Licence area planning

The tables below list the potentially available AM and FM channels. Tables 1 and 2 list the channels which preliminary investigations identify as potentially available for use. Table 3 lists channels that may be available, depending on information received during the consultation process.

### Interference

The medium power transla-

tors based in the Adelaide CBD are to provide services to residents in the foothills of the Adelaide Hills who cannot get a clear signal from Mt Lofty. These translators have the potential to cause interference to the main transmitter of another service. For example, if the service using 93.5 MHz for its main transmitter fires up a translator on 99.9 MHz, the translator could potentially cause interference to another service whose main transmitter was operating on 100.7 MHz. This second service therefore requires a second frequency that listeners can use if they are experiencing interference on the main transmitter frequency.

### Meetings

The ABA meet with interested parties in the region in April. It will then invite submissions and form preliminary views on the number and type of new radio services to be made available and publish this in a draft licence area plan.

**Table 1: Potentially available AM frequency**

Area	Frequency	maximum CMF (Power)	Nominal site
Adelaide	1539 kHz	1045 V (5 kW)	Paralowie

This AM frequency is currently issued to TAB Radio in Adelaide until 31 December 1998 for open narrowcasting purposes.

**Table 2: Potentially available FM frequencies**

Area	Frequency (MHz)	Maximum ERP (kW)	Nominal site
Adelaide	101.5	16	Mt Lofty
Adelaide Foothills	99.1	2	Grenfell St
Adelaide#	91.9	16	Mt Lofty
Adelaide Foothills	90.3	2	South Terrace
Adelaide#	100.7	16	Mt Lofty
Adelaide Foothills	94.3	2	Grenfell St
Adelaide#	93.5	16	Mt Lofty
Adelaide Foothills	99.9	2	Grenfell St

The services marked # must operate as a main and translator frequency pair.

Both the high power transmitter at Mt Lofty and the medium power translator based in the Adelaide CBD need to be operational to prevent interference.

**Table 3: Other potentially available low power FM frequencies**

Frequency (MHz)
89.3
89.1
88.9
88.5
88.3