



Perth

The ABA has started licence area planning in Adelaide and Perth with the release of technical information booklets which show potentially available frequencies in the regions, the caveats which may apply as well as the potential for the markets.

Up to 3 high power radio channels available in Perth

The ABA has identified three high power radio channels, one AM and two FM, as being potentially available in the Perth radio market.

In order to rationalise the frequencies in the Perth area, the ABA has proposed that a Fremantle community radio service move to an alternative frequency to allow for an

additional wide coverage FM radio service in the Perth area.

As well as the two wide coverage FM channels in Perth, three local coverage FM channels have also been identified as potentially available. These include a channel each to cover Armadale, Fremantle and Kalamunda. The Fremantle channel has been identified as a possible frequency for the existing community radio service 6CCR Fremantle.

One wide coverage AM frequency, currently in use for open narrowcasting until 31 December 1998, is potentially available in the Perth market.

Limited spectrum

Perth and the surrounding region has limited spectrum capacity available for new radio services. As frequency demand in one area can affect frequency availability in other parts of the region, the ABA decided to release the technical *Information Booklet* which shows potentially available frequencies in the region and the caveats which may apply.

In the Perth market, the ABA has identified 100.1 MHz and 93.7 MHz as wide coverage FM frequencies that potentially could be used. The use of 100.1 MHz in Perth is subject to the existing community radio service 6CCR Fremantle, currently operating on

100.1 MHz, moving to an alternative frequency.

Although there are three low power frequencies potentially available around the Perth region, one of these, 101.1 MHz, has been identified as a possible alternative frequency for community radio service 6CCR Fremantle. There are two aspirant broadcasters providing local coverage temporary community radio services in the region, one in Armadale and one in Kalamunda.

One high power AM frequency is potentially available in Perth (1206 kHz). This frequency was previously used by 6KY which converted to the FM band. It is currently used to provide an open narrowcasting service until 31 December 1998.

The availability of FM frequencies in Perth is restricted by the presence of television services on VHF channels 3 and 5 in Bunbury.

The only way to increase the number of high power FM services in Perth above the two already mentioned is to clear television services from channels 3 and 5 in Bunbury, or provide UHF TV translators in the Mandurah region to transmit the Bunbury channel 3 and 5 services.

Information Booklet

Release of the *Information Booklet* is the start of the licence area planning process for the Adelaide and Perth regions.

The ABA expects to release draft licence area plans for the Adelaide and Perth regions in the second half of this year and a final plan in 1999. Planning for television services in the two regions is scheduled for 1999.

The ABA will send the *Information Booklet* to all existing broadcasters as well as all known aspirant broadcasters in the Adelaide and Perth region. The booklet is also available from the ABA by telephoning Freecall 1800 810 241.

Meetings

The ABA has yet to form a view about what type of licences and services will be made available in Adelaide and Perth. After the ABA meets with interested parties in the regions in April, it will invite submissions and form preliminary views on the number and type of new radio services to be made available in the regions. It will publish these in draft licence area plans, scheduled for release for both markets later this year.

Submissions

At this stage the ABA is not seeking submissions on the booklet. The ABA will meet with interested parties in Adelaide during April and prefers submitters, especially potential and existing service providers, to lodge their submissions after consultation.

Other metropolitan radio markets

Information booklets for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane were released on 17 February 1998.

Allocation of licences

In general, channel capacity made available for commercial and open narrowcasting radio services will be allocated under a price-based allocation scheme.

Capacity made available for community licences will be allocated by means of a merit-based system. The ABA will generally begin the allocation process after a final licence area plan for each area has been determined.