



## **ABA investigation into DMG and AMI**

The ABA is investigating the relationship between DMG Regional Radio Pty Ltd (DMG) and Associated Media Investments Pty Ltd (AMI) and other companies in the AMI and DMG groups.

The ABA is investigating whether DMG and AMI are in breach of the ownership and control provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Under the Act, a person is prohibited from being in a position to exercise control of a commercial television licence and a commercial radio licence, or more than two commercial radio licences, in the same licence area.

AMI controls television licences in Griffith, NSW, where DMG controls radio licences. DMG controls two radio licences and AMI controls one radio licence in Mildura, Victoria.

## **Satellite delivered TV in remote and regional WA**

The ABA reminds viewers in remote and regional Western Australia that there is no guarantee that a Golden West Network analog signal will continue after 15 May 1998.

On that date, the ABA will review the permission it recently gave to Optus, to retransmit the Golden West Network television service SSW South and South West Western Australia outside its licence area.

If the ABA revokes the permission, it will be a matter for negotiation between Golden West Network and Optus as to whether an analog service continues.

By 15 May, the Golden West service WAW Remote Western Australia will have been

digital for almost six months. In the ABA's view, this is an adequate period for those viewers who wish to receive the WAW signal by satellite to purchase the appropriate equipment, that is, a Scientific Atlanta set top box.

'The ABA is the federal regulator representing the public interest in broadcasting,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The ABA made the decision to permit Optus to retransmit because it is concerned to ensure that the interests of viewers are adequately addressed when changes are made in the delivery of services.'

'The ABA is concerned that there should be an adequate period of transition but it is ultimately the responsibility of viewers to obtain the necessary equipment.'

'The ABA has a limited role in this matter. There is now a competitive environment for satellite broadcasting in remote Western Australia. Decisions by broadcasters about which satellite carrier to use are commercial decisions outside the control of the ABA. These commercial decisions may result in viewers needing different or additional equipment to receive all available television services, include WAW, the ABC and the forthcoming second commercial service,' Professor Flint added.

The Federal Government has offered to provide \$750 towards the cost of purchasing new equipment. Further information about this offer can be obtained by calling the Networking the Nation Secretariat on 1800 674 058 (freecall).

The ABA is currently investigating whether the needs of Western Australian regional viewers have been adequately catered for during the conversion from analog to digital satellite broadcasting. The ABA invites submissions from members of the public on this issue.

### **Submissions:**

#### **Mark submissions:**

'Satellite TV in Western Australia'

#### **Send submissions to:**

ABA  
PO Box Q500  
Queen Victoria Building  
NSW 1230

Tel: (02) 9334 7700 or  
Freecall 1800 22 6667.

Fax: (02) 9334 7799

Email: info@aba.gov.au

### **Closing date**

Close of business

**Wednesday**

**6 May 1998.**

## **Programs granted C or P classification**

*Programs granted C or P classification between 13 March and 2 April 1998. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager, ABA Children's Television, on (02) 9334 7840.*

<b>Program title</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>New/ renewal</b>	<b>Decision date</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
CROCADOO (SERIES 2)	Australia	CAD	new	30-3-98	Energie Entertainment
MU LAN	Australia	CAD	new	16-3-98	Burbank Animation Studios Pty Ltd
POCKET DRAGON ADVENTURES	USA	C	new	30-3-98	BKN International
SKIPPY - ADVENTURES IN BUSHTOWN	Australia	PRC	new	16-3-98	Yoram Gross Film Studios Pty Ltd

**C - children's program, CAD - C Australian drama, P - preschool, PRC - provisional C**



# News Update

## Applications invited:

### Commercial radio

The ABA has invited applications for commercial radio broadcasting licences in Queensland. The invitation is for one licence in Bundaberg and two licences in each of Cairns, Mackay and Townsville.

Anyone interested in applying for a licence must buy a copy of the information package *Price-based Allocation of Commercial Broadcasting Licences* from the ABA, price \$50.

For copies of the package or for more information, call Leanne Smith on (02) 9334 7824 or Kevin O'Brien on (02) 9334 7827.

The information package explains how to apply for a licence, provides technical information about the licences being made available and contains copies of the forms which must be completed by applicants. The reserve price for each licence is \$100 000.

#### Closing date

**Applications must be lodged by midnight AEST on Friday 29 May 1998.**

### Open narrowcasting radio

The ABA has invited applications for transmitter licences to provide open narrowcasting radio services (see table).

Anyone interested in applying for a licence must purchase a copy of an information package, *Price-based Allocation of Transmitter Licences for Open Narrowcasting Services*, from the ABA, price \$40.

To buy a copy of the information package or for more information about the licence allocation system or transmitter licences, please contact Leanne Smith on (02) 9334 7824 or Kevin O'Brien on (02) 9334 7827.

The information package explains how to apply for a licence, provides technical information about the licences being made available and contains copies of the forms which must be completed by applicants.

A non-refundable application fee of \$500 must accompany each application. The reserve price for each licence is \$4000.

#### Closing date

**Applications must be lodged by 4.00 p.m. AEST on Friday 29 May 1998.**

Location	Frequency
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#### New South Wales

Albury	1296 kHz
Albury	99.3 MHz
Berrigan	104.5 MHz
Corowa	94.9 MHz
Culcairn	92.5 MHz
Deniliquin	106.1 MHz
Finley	104.5 MHz
Henty	94.9 MHz
Holbrook	99.3 MHz
Jerilderie	94.9 MHz
Moama	92.5 MHz
Mulwalla	92.5 MHz
Tocumwal	92.5 MHz
Wakool	92.5 MHz

#### Victoria

Benalla	99.3 MHz
Euroa	99.3 MHz
Seymour	99.3 MHz
Shepparton	1413 kHz
Wangaratta	99.3 MHz

#### Queensland

Atherton	88.7 MHz
Atherton	99.1 MHz
Ayr	97.1 MHz
Biloela	90.1 MHz
Bowen	93.5 MHz
Bundaberg	95.5 MHz
Bundaberg	97.1 MHz
Charters Towers	96.7 MHz
Dysart	90.9 MHz
Emerald	92.3 MHz
Ingham	96.9 MHz
Innisfail	97.3 MHz
Mackay	103.5 MHz
Mackay	93.9 MHz
Maryborough	92.3 MHz
Middlemount	94.1 MHz
Moranbah	96.9 MHz
Mossman	90.9 MHz
Proserpine	96.3 MHz
Rockhampton	92.7 MHz
Rockhampton	99.9 MHz
Saraji	92.1 MHz
Sarina	93.5 MHz
Tieri	92.1 MHz
Townsville	98.9 MHz
Tully	93.9 MHz

**Applications for both the commercial and open narrowcasting licences must be lodged at:**

#### By hand:

ABA  
Level 15  
Darling Park  
201 Sussex Street (corner of Market Street)  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

#### By post:

ABA  
PO Box Q500  
Queen Victoria Building  
NSW 1230