



The ABA's public planning process has made channels available for five new radio services, two community and three open narrowcasting, for people of the Wollongong region.

Five new radio services for Wollongong

The ABA has made channels available for five new radio services in the Wollongong region.

'The ABA's decision comes as a result of our public planning process,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'If all these new licences are taken up, it will lead to a significant increase in the number and diversity of radio services available to listeners in the region.'

The ABA will make licences available for two new community radio services and three new narrowcasting radio licences in Wollongong. The licence areas of the two community radio services will include Wollongong and Nowra.

No new commercial radio services have been planned for Wollongong. There are currently two commercial radio services operating in

Wollongong, both on the FM band.

The new community radio licences will be allocated by means of a merit-based allocation process. The licences for the three open narrowcasting services will be allocated by auction.

Commercial radio

No additional commercial radio licences have been made available in Wollongong.

Community radio

In the Wollongong region, two new community radio licences will be made available for allocation. The services are planned to operate on 93.3 MHz with a maximum ERP of 4 kW from and on 94.1 MHz with a maximum ERP of 4 kW from a nominal site at Saddleback Mountain. The licence area of both services will include Wollongong and Nowra.

Living Sound Broadcasters Ltd and Music Broadcast Society of New South Wales 2MBS-FM (Listener Supported Stereo Radio) have expressed interest in providing a community radio service in the area. Living Sound Broadcasters are currently operating under a temporary community broad-

casting licence. 2MBS FM (Listener Supported Stereo Radio), has not conducted temporary transmissions in Wollongong to date, but currently operates a community broadcasting service in Sydney on 102.5 MHz.

Community radio licences will be allocated via a merit-based allocation process.

Open narrowcasting radio

Three channels will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services in the Wollongong area. The first will operate on 1314 kHz and the second on 1575 kHz on the AM band. Both are planning to operate from a nominal transmitter site at Windang with a maximum CMF of 1.1 kW. For planning purposes, the normal coverage area of these services will be considered to be within a radius of 20 km from the nominal transmitter site.

The third service will operate on 105.3 on the FM band from a nominal transmitter site at Broker's Nose with a maximum ERP of 2 kW. For planning purposes, the normal coverage area of this services will be considered to be within a radius of 15 km from

the nominal transmitter site.

2KY Racing Radio, Information Radio Services and Rete Italia have expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the region. These licences will be allocated via a price-based allocation system. Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

Open narrowcasting services are services whose reception is limited by being targeted to special interest groups, or by being intended only for limited locations, or by being provided during a limited period or to cover a special event, or because they provide programs of limited appeal, or for some other reason. More than ninety per cent of open narrowcasting licences allocated by the ABA are for either racing radio or tourist information services.

National radio

The licence area plan reserves spectrum capacity for all planned national radio services. There are five existing national radio service in the Wollongong area — three FM services in the Illawarra from Knights Hill and two AM services in Wollongong from Windang.

Licence area plan: Wollongong

Copies of the radio licence area plan for the Wollongong region are available on the ABA web site <www.aba.gov.au>, from the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241, and for viewing at the Wollongong City Library 41 Burelli St, Wollongong.