



The ABA has made channels available for five new radio services in Cooma, New South Wales.

New radio services for the Cooma region

The ABA has made channels available for five new radio services in Cooma, New South Wales.

The ABA has made four additional narrowcasting radio licences available for allocation, one each at Bombala, Cooma, Jindabyne and Thredbo. One new licence for a community radio service will also be made available in the Monaro region. The ABA has also extended the licence area of the commercial radio services 2XL and 2SKI Cooma to include Cabramurra, Khancoban and Talbingo.

'The decision to make these new services available to the people follows interest expressed by parties in providing new radio services,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'If all these new licences are taken up, it will lead to an increase in the number and diversity of radio services available to listeners in the area.'

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plan for radio in the Cooma area. The ABA can now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available.

The licences for the open narrowcasting services will be allocated by auction. The li-

cence for the community radio service will be allocated via a merit-based process.

Commercial radio

No additional commercial radio licences have been made available in Cooma. In recognition of the community of interest ties between Cooma and the towns of Cabramurra, Khancoban and Talbingo, the ABA has extended the licence areas of the existing commercial radio services 2XL and 2SKI Cooma, to include these towns, and made channels available for transmitters.

In order to improve reception and coverage in the Bombala area, the ABA has made channels available for transmitters associated with the 2XL and 2SKI services is made available.

The transmitters associated with the 2XL service are planned to operate in Bombala on 92.5 MHz, Cabramurra on 99.1 MHz, Khancoban on 103.1 MHz and Talbingo on 95.1 MHz.

The transmitters associated with the 2SKI service are planned to operate in Bombala on 91.7 MHz, Cabramurra on 90.3 MHz, Khancoban on 105.3 MHz and Talbingo on 93.5 MHz.

Community radio

One new community radio licence will be made available for allocation in the Monaro region. The service is planned to operate in Monaro (Emerald Hill) on 93.3 MHz with a maximum ERP of 2 kW, Cooma (town only) FM 90.5 MHz with a maximum ERP of 50 W, and Jindabyne (town only) on 93.9 MHz with a maximum ERP of 100 W.

The Monaro Community Radio (Nimmitabel Community Radio Group) and the High Country Community Media Association have expressed interest in providing a community radio service. Monaro Community Radio Nimmitabel Community Radio Group has conducted temporary transmissions since June 1996 and is currently operating under a temporary community broadcasting licence. High Country Community Media Association has expressed interest in providing a community radio service.

Open narrowcasting radio

Channels will be made available for four open narrowcasting radio services, one each at Bombala, Cooma,

Jindabyne and Thredbo. The services are planned to transmit from Bombala on 90.9 MHz, at 300 W, with a coverage radius of 20 km; Cooma from Mt Roberts on 96.9 MHz, at 1 kW with a coverage radius of 33 km; Jindabyne from Jinderboine Hill on 102.7 MHz at 2 kW, with a radius of 17 km; and Thredbo, from Mt Crackenback, on 106.9 MHz, at 140 W with a radius of 10 km.

2KY Racing Radio, Information Radio Services and Capital Media NSW Pty Ltd have expressed interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the region.

National radio

The licence area plan reserves spectrum capacity for all planned national radio services.

Cooma radio licence area plan

The radio licence area plan for Cooma can be viewed on the ABA web site at <www.aba.gov.au>. Copies can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241, or are available for viewing at local libraries.