



News Update

New community radio licences:

Deepwater

The ABA has allocated a community radio licence for Deepwater, New South Wales.

The licence was allocated to Deepwater and Districts Community FM Radio Inc and the new service will broadcast on 91.1 MHz on the FM band.

'The applicant satisfied the ABA it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the local community', said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman

The ABA has allocated this licence after consulting with the people of the Deepwater region to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

The ABA understands the proposed service will operate full time, and will reflect the range of needs and interests of the local print handicapped community. It will provide entertainment, information, book readings, magazine and newspaper readings, and some religious programming. It will include programming of relevance to the local community in Shepparton.

The ABA invited applications for the new community radio licence in a public notice in the *Northern Daily Leader* on 23 April 1999. There was one application, which the ABA assessed, giving particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet existing and future community needs.

The Deepwater and Districts Community FM Radio Inc. service currently operates 38 hours per week as a temporary community broadcaster. However, with the allocation of the permanent community licence, Deepwater and Districts Community FM Radio Inc. anticipates increasing this service. The programming for the service is expected to include a wide range of music programs and local and national current affairs.

Shepparton

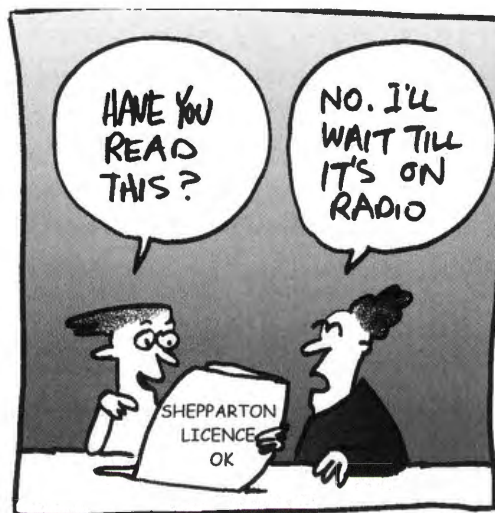
The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for Shepparton, Victoria.

The licence was allocated to the Vision Australia Foundation to operate a service on 100.1 MHz on the FM band.

'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs

of the print handicapped community within the Shepparton licence area', said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The ABA received two applications for the new community radio licence. One was from the Association for the Blind (now known as



Vision Australia Foundation) aimed at the print handicapped community. The other was from Greater Shepparton Christian Broadcasters aimed at the Christian community.

The ABA concluded that the print handicapped community, which makes up 10 per cent of the licence area population, is less well served than the Christian community. The ABA held the view that the Christian community is served by other broadcasting services (including national services) available in the Shepparton licence area, specifically the community broadcaster 3One FM. Nevertheless, the ABA believes some programming on the new station should target the Christian community. The ABA therefore has invited Vision Australia to indicate how this will be achieved.

The new licensees have 12 months to get the new services up and running.

Applications invited for new community radio licences

Lightning Ridge

The ABA has invited applications for a new community radio licence to serve Lightning Ridge, New South Wales.