



News Update

Applications invited for five new community radio licences

The ABA has invited applications for five new community radio broadcasting licences. The licences are to serve Rockhamptom, Mareeba, Dalby and Wondai, all in Queensland, and Borroloola in the Northern Territory.

'Allocation of new community broadcasting licences has begun in these regions as a result of the ABA's public planning process being finalised in these areas,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The planning processes identified a demand for new community services that are operated by people living in these communities.'

Application procedure

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences must be allocated on the basis of merit. Under this system, in areas where there is only one applicant for a community broadcasting licence, the ABA need only decide if the applicant merits a licence.

When there is more than one applicant, the ABA may also have to choose on the basis of comparative merit. Alternatively, applicants could combine to present a unified application.

Only non-profit community broadcasting organisations that represent a community interest will be eligible for the allocation of a community broadcasting licence.

The ABA is not obliged to allocate a community broadcasting licence to an applicant even though the ABA has advertised for and received applications.

In assessing applications the ABA will have regard to matters set out in the Act. These include:

- whether the proposed service meets the definition of a community broadcasting service;
- whether the applicant is a 'company' and represents a community interest;
- whether the allocation is subject to any Ministerial 'priority direction';
- the needs and interests of the community and the extent to which the proposed service would meet those needs and interests;

Temporary community broadcasting licences

issued during August 1999.

<i>Licensee</i>	<i>Area served</i>	<i>Frequency (MHz)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date allocated</i>
New South Wales				
Blacktown City Community Radio SWR FM Ass. Inc.	Blacktown	99.9	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	25-8-1999
Macarthur Community Radio Association Inc.	Campbelltown	100.3	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	27-8-1999
Coffs Harbour Christian Broadcasters	Coffs Harbour	107.9	26-8-1999 to 30-11-1999	23-8-1999
Holiday Coast Community Radio Inc.	Coffs Harbour	107.9	26-8-1999 to 30-11-1999	24-8-1999
Central Coast Broadcasters Ltd	Gosford	94.1	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	31-8-1999
Radio Five-O-Plus Public Radio Association Inc.	Gosford	95.3	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	27-8-1999
Radio Yesteryear Inc.	Gosford	104.5	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	31-8-1999
Hornsby Kur-ing-gai Community Radio Inc.	Hornsby	100.1	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	31-8-1999
New Wave Broadcasters Ltd	Killara	99.3	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	27-8-1999
Pump Broadcasters Ltd	Killara	99.3	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	27-8-1999
Nepean Riverlands Community Radio Association	Penrith	100.7	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	30-8-1999
Way Out West Fine Music Inc.	St Marys	88.3	1-9-1999 to 29-2-2000	31-8-1999
Chinese Community Radio Inc.	Sydney	94.5	1-9-1999 to 30-9-1999	27-8-1999
Spanish Broadcasting Association Inc.	Western Sydney	100.9	1-9-1999 to 31-10-1999	31-8-1999
Queensland				
One FM Broadcasters Inc.	Brisbane	97.3	21-8-1999 to 30-9-1999	20-8-1999
Western Australia				
Esperance Sonshine Broadcasters Inc.	Esperance	103.9	9-8-1999 to 8-11-1999	3-8-1999