



The final licence area plan for radio in the Toowoomba/Warwick area, and the varied licence area plans for Tenterfield, NSW (community) and Remote Central and Eastern Australia (commercial) have made channels available for ten new radio services in the Queensland radio market of Toowoomba/Warwick.

New radio services for the Darling Downs

The ABA has made channels available for ten new radio services in the Queensland radio market of Toowoomba/Warwick.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plan for radio in the Toowoomba/Warwick area, and the varied licence area plans for Tenterfield, NSW (community) and Remote Central and Eastern Australia (commercial). The ABA can now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available.

The licences for the commercial and open narrowcasting services will be allocated by auction. The licences for the community radio services will be allocated via a merit-based process.

Planning for television services throughout Regional Queensland, including Toowoomba/Warwick, is currently scheduled to commence in late 1999.

Commercial radio

The ABA has made channels available for one new commercial radio service in the Toowoomba/Warwick commercial radio licence area.

Interest in the commercial

radio licence has been expressed by Darling Downs Communications, GCR Enterprises and RG Capital Radio Pty Limited. This licence will be allocated via a price-based allocation system.

The ABA chose to combine the licence areas of the existing commercial radio services in Toowoomba and Warwick, to form the commercial radio licence area of Toowoomba/Warwick, due to a large overlap between services in the two areas.

Additional transmitters for existing commercial radio services 4AK, 4GR and 4WK have been planned to allow these services to give adequate coverage to the combined licence area. 4AK and 4GR will each have an additional transmitter in Stanthorpe. 4WK will have additional transmitters in Dalby and Stanthorpe.

Community radio

Channels for community radio services will be also be made available in Dalby, Toowoomba and Warwick.

There is one known aspirant group in each of Dalby (Dalby Broadcasting Association Inc.) and Warwick (Warwick Community FM Radio Association

Inc.), and two known aspirant groups in Toowoomba (Radio Pacific and Toowoomba Christian Broadcasters Association Inc.). Dalby Broadcasting Association Inc., Warwick Community FM Radio Association Inc. and Toowoomba Christian Broadcasters Association Inc. are all currently operating under temporary community broadcasting licences.

The licence areas of the community radio service 2TEN Tenterfield and the 4SUN commercial radio service have been extended into Stanthorpe. Channel capacity has been made available in Stanthorpe for both of these services.

Open narrowcasting radio

In the Toowoomba/Warwick area, channels will be made available for three open narrowcasting radio services in Toowoomba and one in each of Dalby, Stanthorpe and Warwick.

Interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the region has been expressed by Country Classics FM, TAB Queensland, Bevan Anderson, Kym Florence - CMP Services,

Gay and Lesbian Association; TAB Queensland, and Toowoomba Youth Service. These licences will be allocated via a price-based allocation system. Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

National radio

The licence area plan reserves spectrum capacity for existing and planned national radio services. In the Toowoomba/Warwick market, there are four existing national radio services in the Southern Downs and one in Toowoomba. □

Licence area plans

Details of the radio licence area plan for Toowoomba/Warwick, and the variations to the Tenterfield NSW (community) and Remote Central and Eastern Australia (commercial) licence area plans, are available for viewing at the Dalby-Wambo Public Library; Gatton and Stanthorpe Shire Libraries; Pittsworth and Warwick Municipal Libraries and Toowoomba City Library. Copies can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241, or from the ABA's web site at <www.aba.gov.au>.