



The ABA has allocated five new commercial radio licences. Three are to serve the Queensland central coast, and two are non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio broadcasting licences: one to cover the whole of Australia and the second to serve the Wagin area of Western Australia.

New commercial radio licences:

1 Queensland Central Coast

The ABA has allocated three new commercial radio broadcasting licences to serve areas along the central coast of Queensland

All successful applicants must commence operation of a service within one year of being allocated the licence (or seek the ABA's permission for an extension of this period).

The ABA held auctions for these licences on 25 November 1998. Full payment for the licences was to be made by 13 January 1999.

Commercial radio licence auction—successful applicants

Area	Frequency	Successful applicant	Amount bid
Rockhampton/ Gladstone (SL1150045)	107.9 MHz 93.5 MHz	Regional Broadcasters Australia Pty Ltd	\$575 000
Rockhampton/ Gladstone (SL1150183)	101.5 MHz 95.1 MHz	Rockhampton Broadcasting Company Pty Ltd	\$525 000
Maryborough (SL1150054)	103.5 MHz	Broadcast Operations Pty Ltd	\$700 000

2 Non-broadcasting services bands licences

The ABA has allocated two new non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio broadcasting licences. One licence has been allocated to Promo-Radio Pty Ltd, to cover the whole of Australia.

The second licence has been allocated to Great Southern Broadcasters Radio 6GS Pty Ltd, to serve the Wagin area of Western Australia.

The ABA has now allocated six non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio broadcasting licences.

The licensees may not use the broadcasting services bands to deliver their services. They must also commence the service within 12 months of being allocated the licence, or within a longer period as approved by the ABA.

Non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio licences are allocated by the ABA on application under section 40 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. Applicants for a licence must pay an

application fee, currently set at \$2400.

Section 40 licences

Section 40 of the Broadcasting Services Act provides that the ABA may allocate to a person, on application in writing, a commercial radio broadcasting licence for a service which does not use the broadcasting services bands (BSB).

The broadcasting services bands is that part of the radiofrequency spectrum re-

ferred to the ABA for planning by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts on which normal AM and FM radio services and free-to-air television services are provided.

Before allocating a section 40 licence the ABA must designate a particular area in Australia as the licence area of the licence. Designating a licence area allows the control provisions of the Act to be applied to the service.

