



New commercial radio licence for Murray Bridge

The ABA has allocated a second commercial radio licence to Australian Regional Broadcasters Pty Ltd, owner of 5MU Murray Bridge. This is the fifty-third commercial radio licence allocated by the ABA to a regional operator providing the only commercial service in a market.

The new service 5EZY will cover the same area as the existing AM service and will broadcast on FM 98.7 MHz in Murray Bridge.

The fee for the licence was \$10 000. Australian Regional Broadcasters Pty Ltd now has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

The ABA has already granted second licences under section 39 to commercial radio broadcasters in Albany, Armidale, Atherton, Ballarat, Bathurst, Bega, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Charleville, Charters Towers, Coffs Harbour, Colac, Cooma, Darwin, Devonport, Dubbo, Emerald, Esperance, Griffith, Goulburn, Grafton, Gunnedah, Gympie, Horsham, Innisfail, Inverell, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Karratha, Kingaroy, Lithgow, Longreach, Mandurah, Maryborough, Merredin, Mildura, Mt Gambier, Mudgee, Nambour, Narrogin, Northam, Orange, Parkes, Port Hedland, Queenstown, Renmark, Roma, Swan Hill, Taree, Wangaratta and Young.

community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

When the ABA invited applications for the new community radio licence on 30 July 1998, Muda Aboriginal Corporation was the only applicant. Its application was assessed, with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet existing and future needs within the Bourke region.

The proposed service will operate full time, and will reflect the range of needs and interests of the local Aboriginal community. It will provide entertainment, news and sports programs and a range of information including matters relating to education, health issues and the preservation of local culture, with an emphasis on survival of the community language.

Bourke region

The area is currently served by the national television services, ABC and SBS, and commercial television services, IMP and QQQ. In addition to the ABC radio services 2WPR, 2ABCFM, 2JJJ and 2ABCRN, there is one community radio service, 2WEB.

In the radio licence area plan for the Bourke region, which was released on 10 December 1996, the ABA determined one new community radio service be made available.

New community licence for Bourke

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

The licence was allocated to Muda Aboriginal Corporation to operate a service on 106.5 MHz on the FM band.

The licensee has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Bourke region,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Aboriginal community within the Bourke licence area which includes Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge and Walgett.'

The ABA has allocated this licence after consultation with the people of the local

Principles for allocating community radio licences

The ABA has developed principles which show how it will allocate new community radio licences, Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman said. Professor Flint was addressing the annual conference of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in Adelaide in December.

'Firstly, the ABA will focus solely on the needs of the community within the licence area—both the existing needs and the perceived future needs. Secondly, that it is in an applicant's interests to define its community interest in broader rather than narrower terms. Thirdly, the concept of a particular community interest must refer to a community interest within the licence area of the proposed service,' he said.