



Planning for digital broadcasting in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth

Melbourne

Proposals for repeater channels for digital TV and datacasting

The ABA has released proposals for digital television repeater channels in Melbourne. The proposals for digital channels at repeater sites at South Yarra, Warburton, Marysville, Safety Beach, Rosebud, Fern Tree Gully, Upwey and Selby are contained in a discussion paper and draft variations to the digital channel plans for Melbourne.

The ABA proposes to allot additional channels 51, 54, 57, 60, 63, 66 and 67 at each of the translator sites of South Yarra, Warburton, Marysville, Safety Beach and Rosebud for digital television and datacasting in Melbourne. These channels will be assigned to the commercial and national broadcasters in order to achieve the same level of coverage as the existing analog services. It is also proposed to allot additional channels 38, 41, 44, 47, 50, 53 and 54 for digital television and datacasting at Fern Tree Gully, Upwey and Selby. The

services using these channels will be able to operate co-channelled between the repeater sites.

The draft variation to the commercial digital channel plan also proposes that a special condition be placed on the technical specifications for the Melbourne digital television service on channel 32. This special condition is to ensure that interference is not caused to the adjacent channel 31 analog community television open narrowcasting service, CTV 31.

Discussion paper

The discussion papers for Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, containing the proposals, and the draft variations to the digital channel plans for Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth are available on the ABA web site www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

Closing date for submissions

Submissions close at **5.00 p.m., Friday 24 November 2000.**

Adelaide

Proposals for channels for digital TV, datacasting and repeater services

The ABA has released proposals for channels for digital television repeaters in the Adelaide Foothills, Elizabeth South and Victor Harbor parts of the Adelaide licence area. These include five channels that may be used for the commercial and national broadcasting services, and three channels for other purposes, such as datacasting.

'In coming to these views, the ABA weighed up a number of important factors. These included the aim of spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers must make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital television and the desirability of broadcasters being able to use their existing infrastructure to broadcast digital services, said Professor Flint.

The ABA determined the original South Australia: Part 1 — Adelaide Digital Channel Plans on 7 October 1999.

The ABA's draft plan for channels for digital repeater

services in the Adelaide area specifies the same transmission sites used by existing analog television translator services, which are designed to assist viewers where reception from the main television transmitter sites is difficult. These are at Adelaide Foothills, Elizabeth South and Victor Harbor.

Analog services in Angaston, Carrickalinga, Golden Grove, Gumeracha, Normanville, Peterhead, Swan Reach, Truro Grove or Yankalilla are operated by self-help community groups. Retransmission services under section 212 of the Act (by a person other than a broadcaster) are not covered by digital conversion objectives of the Act. The ABA therefore does not propose to allot channels for the conversion of these retransmission services.

In the draft variations to the SA: Part 1 — Adelaide Digital Channel Plans, the ABA has planned networks using additional channels.



Perth

Proposals for repeater channels for digital tv and datacasting

The ABA has released proposals for digital television repeater services in Roleystone and Toodyay.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft variations to the digital channel plans for Perth.

The draft variation to the commercial digital channel plan also proposes that a special condition be placed on the technical specifications for the Perth digital television service on channel 32. This special condition is to ensure that interference is not caused to the adjacent channel 31 analog community television open narrowcasting service, CTV31.

The ABA determined the Western Australia (WA): Part 1 DCPs (Perth) on 2 February 2000, which listed channels for the Perth main stations.

The ABA has now prepared draft variations to the Perth commercial and national digital channel plans. The ABA's draft plan proposes channels for digital services at the re-

peater sites of Roleystone and Toodyay. These are the same transmission sites used by existing analog television translator services, which are designed to assist viewers where reception from the main television transmitter sites is difficult.

The open narrowcasting community television service in Perth (CTV 31) operates on channel 31, adjacent to channel 32 which has been allotted to Perth for a digital television service. The ABA understands through discussions with the licensee of CTV 31 that it is operating at half its licensed power (600 kW ERP maximum) and that the radiation pattern may not be fully omni-directional.

The ABA considers that there is significant variability in the factors that must be considered in determining a suitable ERP for a digital service operating on the channel adjacent to an analog service.

New community radio licence for Narrabri

The ABA has allocated a community radio licence to serve the Narrabri area in New South Wales. The new licence has been allocated to Narrabri Shire Community Radio Incorporated to operate a service on 91.3 MHz on the FM band.

When the licence for Narrabri was originally advertised in June 1999, two groups, Narrabri Shire Community Radio and Kaputar FM, applied for the licence.

The ABA decided not to allocate the licence at that time because it was concerned about the ability of each of the applicants to provide a service that would meet the needs of the general community of Narrabri.

'Since then, both groups have worked to resolve the problems that led to the ABA making its decision not to allocate the licence,' said Professor Flint. 'Kaputar FM has been dissolved and its members have been accommodated within the organisation of Narrabri Shire Community Radio. This is to be a service which is intended to be repre-

sentative of all the Narrabri community.'

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Narrabri region,' said Professor Flint. 'The applicant has satisfied the ABA it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in that area.'

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

The ABA sought further applications for the community radio licence in July 2000. One application was received and the ABA assessed whether the proposed service would meet existing and future community needs.

Narrabri Shire Community Radio Incorporated currently operates a full time service under a temporary community broadcasting licence. The service features a wide range of programming which is intended to appeal to the general community.

