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# New radio services for Sydney

The ABA has decided to make licences available for two new commercial radio services, three new Sydney-wide community radio services and three new open narrowcasting services in Sydney.

The ABA will also make a licence available for a local coverage commercial radio service to serve the Campbelltown region and four new community radio services to serve suburban areas of Sydney (one each for Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hornsby and Penrith).

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plan for radio in Sydney and Katoomba and its varied licence area plan for Lithgow.

'The ABA has sought to achieve the best mix of national, commercial, community and narrowcasting radio for the listening public of Sydney,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'This was always going to be a difficult decision given the limited number of available frequencies and the high level of demand for new licences from aspirant commercial and community groups. In the end, the ABA has been guided by the first object of the Broadcasting Services Act, that is to promote the availability to

audiences of a diverse range of radio and television services offering entertainment, education and information.'

The ABA expects to allocate the licences for the first Sydney-wide and the Campbelltown commercial radio services this year. The ABA will allocate the second additional commercial radio service (95.3 MHz) in four years time, i.e. December 2003.

Following allocation of the Campbelltown commercial radio licence, the ABA intends to impose a condition pursuant to section 43 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to ensure it remains a local coverage commercial radio service for the benefit of the listeners in the Campbelltown region.

One of the aims of the ABA's planning process is to use spectrum efficiently. In order to rationalise frequencies in the Sydney area, some existing local coverage community radio services will move to alternative frequencies to allow for two of the three additional wide coverage community radio services.

The move affects three frequencies presently used by 2NSB Chatswood (91.5 MHz) and 2MWM Manly (93.7 MHz) Manly North and 92.1 MHz

Manly South).

These services are required to change frequency by December 2000. Commonwealth funds will be made available for the costs incurred by 2NSB and 2MWM in changing frequency.

No new community radio licences (Sydney-wide or suburban) will be allocated until 2NSB Chatswood and 2MWM Manly make the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies. The ABA will call for applications for the three new Sydney-wide community licences this month (see page 6). The ABA will continue to issue temporary community broadcasting licences in the interim.

In Lithgow, the existing commercial FM radio service, 2ICE, will change frequency to accommodate a second new commercial radio service in Sydney. This change is required by December 2002. The ABA has also extended the licence areas of the two Lithgow commercial radio services 2LT (which operates on the AM band) and 2ICE to include parts of the Katoomba region.



## Background

The licence area plans for radio in Sydney and Katoomba contain details of all national, commercial, community or open narrowcasting radio broadcasting services that are available using the broadcasting services bands of the radiofrequency spectrum. These are the parts of the spectrum used by AM and FM radio services. The variation to the Lithgow licence area plan contains changes to the Lithgow commercial radio services.

## Licence area plans

The licence area plans for Sydney, Katoomba and Lithgow are available on the ABA's web site at <[www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au)>, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. They are also available for viewing at local libraries.



The Australian Government primarily funds extensions of, or improvements to, national services. The respective operators fund extensions of, or improvements to, commercial and community services within their licence areas.

It is important to note that the ABA cannot fund or compel others to fund additional broadcasting services, or improved reception of existing broadcasting services, in an area. It can only make channel capacity available.

With the exception of the capacity reserved for national broadcasters and channel capacity made available for allocation to community broadcasters, other capacity set out in the licence area plans will generally be made

available for commercial licences and open narrowcasting services, under a price-based allocation scheme.

Capacity set out for community licences will be made available by means of a merit-based system.

### Main issues

The main planning issue is the limited availability of spectrum to accommodate the interest expressed by existing and potential radio broadcasters in establishing new services.

Following is a summary of the ABA's decisions.

### Sydney

The ABA has:

- reserved spectrum capacity for the existing national radio services in Sydney;
- made two additional commercial FM radio services available, one on 96.9 MHz and the other on 95.3 MHz; The allocation of the second service (95.3 MHz) will take place four years after determination of the licence area plan;
- changed the frequency of 2ICE Lithgow from 95.3 MHz to 107.9 MHz to allow a 150 kW FM service available in Sydney;
- made one local coverage commercial FM radio service available in the Campbelltown region on 91.3 MHz;
- made three additional wide coverage Sydney FM community radio services available,

on 92.1 MHz, 93.7 MHz and 94.5 MHz;

- changed the frequencies of 2MWM Manly North (from 93.7 MHz to 88.7 MHz) and Manly South (92.1 MHz to 90.3 MHz) and 2NSB Chatswood (from 91.5 MHz to 99.3 MHz) to allow additional wide coverage Sydney community radio services;
- made two wide coverage Sydney AM open narrowcasting radio services available (on 1386 kHz and 1539 kHz) and one at Penrith on 1476 kHz;
- made local coverage community FM radio services available to serve the Blacktown (on 99.9 MHz) Hornsby (on 100.1 MHz), Campbelltown (on 100.3 MHz) and Penrith (on 100.7 MHz) areas;
- changed the technical operating conditions of some existing commercial and community radio services, including frequency changes for community radio services 2BCR Bankstown, 2MWM Manly, 2NSB Chatswood and 2VTR Windsor.

### Katoomba and Lithgow

The ABA has:

- changed the frequency of 2ICE Lithgow, from 95.3 MHz to 107.9 MHz, to take effect within three years after determination of the Sydney licence area plan, to allow a 150 kW commercial FM service to be made available in Sydney and extend the licence areas of 2ICE and 2LT Lithgow into the Katoomba region;
- approved a power increase and extension of licence area to Blackheath for the 2BLU Katoomba community radio service.

**Table 1: AM radio services in the Sydney market**

Category of Service *	Call sign	Frequency	Maximum CMF (Power)	Nominal location	Technical notes
National	2RN	576 kHz	2.69 kW (50 kW)	Liverpool	
National	2PB	630 kHz	995 V	Liverpool	
National	2BL	702 kHz	3.11 kW (50 kW)	Liverpool	
National	2EA	1107 kHz	920 V (5 kW)	Salt Marsh Homebush Bay	
Commercial	2GB	873 kHz	1350 V/955 V (10 kW/5 kW)	Homebush Bay	Day/Night Switching
Commercial	2UE	954 kHz	1350 V/955 V (10 kW/5 kW)	Homebush Bay	Day/Night Switching
Commercial	2KY	1017 kHz	1250 V/885 V (10 kW/5 kW)	Homebush	Day/Night Switching
Commercial	2CH	1170 kHz	1300 V/920 V (10 kW/5 kW)	Salt Marsh Homebush Bay	Day/Night Switching
Commercial	2SM	1269 kHz	1350 V/955 V (10 kW/5 kW)	Homebush Abattoirs Homebush	Day/Night Switching
Community	2RPH	1224 kHz	1.26 kW (5 kW)	Church Lane Prospect	
Open narrowcast		1386 kHz	1.015 kW (5 kW)	Homebush	
Open narrowcast		1539 kHz	385 V (1 kW)	Bicentennial Park Concord West	
Penrith					
Open narrowcast		1476 kHz	225 V (500 W)	Emu Plains, 5km NW of Penrith	

\* Sydney-wide unless noted otherwise.

**Table 2: FM radio services in the Sydney market**

Location/ Category of service	Callsign	Frequency	Maximum ERP	Nominal location	Technical notes
National	2ABCFM	92.9 MHz	60 kW	Gore Hill	
National	2SBS	97.7 MHz	60 kW	Gore Hill	
National	2JJJ	105.7 MHz	60 kW	Gore Hill	
Commercial	2UUS	101.7 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	Two translator services for 2UUS to improve coverage within its licence area
		88.3 MHz	100 W	Mt Prudhoe	
		99.1 MHz	100 W	Winmalee	
Commercial	2DAY	104.1 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	
Commercial	2MMM	104.9 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	
Commercial	2WFM	106.5 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	
Commercial		95.3 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	Allocation is dependent on 2ICE Lithgow making the transition from its existing frequency (95.3 MHz) to a new frequency (107.9 MHz)
Commercial		96.9 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	
Community	2000	98.5 MHz	25 kW	Optus Tower Cnr Miller & Pacific Hwy North Sydney	Maximum ERP increased
Community	2MBS	102.5 MHz	50 kW	Young St Sydney	Maximum ERP increased
Community	2CBA	103.2 MHz	50 kW	Miller St Sydney	Maximum ERP increased
Community	2SER	107.3 MHz	50 kW	University of Technology Ultimo	Maximum ERP increased
Community	2RSR	88.9 MHz	200 W	Sydney Town Hall Sydney	Maximum ERP increased
Community		92.1 MHz	15 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies
Community		93.7 MHz	50 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies
Community		94.5 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower Artarmon	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies

**Table 3: FM radio services in suburban Sydney markets**

Location/ Category of service	Callsign	Frequency	Maximum ERP	Nominal location	Technical notes
Campbelltown Commercial		91.3 MHz	1 kW	Mt Hercules Road Razorback	Restricted to 200 W towards Sydney until the clearance of 2NSB from 91.5 MHz
Bankstown Community	2BCR	100.9 MHz	200 W	Condell Park	Frequency changed from 88.7 MHz and maximum ERP increased to improve reception within its licence area
Blacktown Community		99.9 MHz	200 W	Horsley Park	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies
Burwood Community	2RDJ	88.1 MHz	100 W	Church St Burwood	Maximum ERP increased
Campbelltown Community		100.3 MHz	200 W	Mt Hercules Rd Razorback	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies



Location/ category of service	Callsign	Frequency	Maximum ERP	Nominal location	Technical notes
Chatswood Community	2NSB	99.3 MHz	200 W	Victor St Chatswood	Frequency changed from 91.5 MHz to allow for 92.1 MHz to be made available for a wide coverage community radio service. Maximum ERP increased
Hornsby Community		100.1 MHz	200 W	10 Romsey St Waitara	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies
Liverpool Community	2GLF	89.3 MHz	80 W	Mount Pritchard	
Manly North Community	2MWM	88.7 MHz	200 W	Bilgola Plateau Plateau Road	Frequency changed from 93.7 MHz to allow for two of the three additional wide coverage community radio services
Manly South Community	2MWM/T	90.3 MHz	50 W	Tania Park Balgowlah Heights	Frequency changed from 92.1 MHz to allow for two of the three additional wide coverage community radio services
Narwee Community	2NBC	90.1 MHz	200 W	Penshurst Water Tower	Maximum ERP increased
Parramatta Community	2CCR	90.5 MHz	200 W	Seven Hills Rd Baulkham Hills	
Penrith Community		100.7 MHz	200 W	Uni of Western Sydney	Allocation is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition from existing frequencies to new frequencies
Ryde Community	2RRR	88.5 MHz	100 W	Goulding Rd Trig Point North Ryde	Maximum ERP increased
Sutherland Community	2SSR	99.7 MHz	200 W	Eton St Sutherland	Maximum ERP increased
Waverley Community	2RES	89.7 MHz	200 W	Waverley College Birrell Rd Waverley	Maximum ERP increased
Windsor Community	2VTR	89.9 MHz	750 W	Miles Comms Old Site 246 Burralow Rd Kurrajong Heights	Frequency changed from 89.7 MHz. Maximum ERP increased. Restricted to 50 W towards Sydney
Spare frequencies		89.5 MHz 90.7 MHz 100.5 MHz			The ABA has decided not to make these frequencies available in the LAP. These frequencies may be made available for Special Event purposes in the future as appropriate



## Calls for applications:

### ABA to advertise in February for applications for new community licences for Sydney

The ABA will advertise this February for applications for three Sydney wide community radio broadcasting licences, as well as four new community radio licences to serve the suburban areas of Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hornsby, and Penrith.

These new community radio licences were made available in the Sydney Licence Area Plan, which the ABA released in December 1999. The licences will be advertised in both the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

Applicants for the licences must be a company formed in Australia and must represent a community interest.

The closing date for applications will be 28 days from the date of advertisement. Please note that late applications will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances.

All known aspirant community broadcasters in the Sydney licence area will automatically be sent an application form and information kit. However, if you are an existing aspirant and you do not receive this kit by the date that the licences are advertised, you should contact the Licensing Section of the ABA: (02) 9334 7700.