



The ABA has invited applications for three new Sydney-wide community radio licences and four new suburban community radio licences, to serve the areas of Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hornsby and Penrith.

ABA invites applications for Sydney community radio licences

The ABA has invited applications for three new Sydney-wide community radio licences and four new suburban community radio licences. The suburban licences are to serve the areas of Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hornsby and Penrith.

'Allocation of new community broadcasting licences has begun in Sydney and its suburbs as a result of the ABA's public planning process being finalised in this area,' said Mr Gareth Grainger, Acting ABA Chairman.

The allocation of these new licences is dependent on 2MWM Manly and 2NSB Chatswood making the transition to new frequencies by 21 December 2000.

The three Sydney-wide community services will operate on 92.1 MHz, 93.7 MHz and 94.5 MHz. The licence to serve Blacktown will operate on 99.9 MHz, Campbelltown will be on 100.3 MHz, Hornsby on 100.1 MHz, and Penrith on 100.7 MHz.

Only non-profit community broadcasting organisations that represent a community interest will be eligible for the

allocation of a community broadcasting licence.

The ABA is not obliged to allocate a community broadcasting licence to an applicant even though the ABA has advertised and received applications.

Community licence allocation

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences must be allocated on the basis of merit. Key factors the ABA will consider include the needs and interests of the community, and the applicant's capacity to provide the proposed service.

The ABA expects the Sydney community radio licences to be closely contested. It is possible the ABA will conduct a public hearing before making its decision on licence allocation. If the number of applicants exceeds the number that can be reasonably managed in a public hearing, the ABA may develop a shortlist of applicants for the hearing. The applications are the primary documents upon which the ABA will base any such decision.

Application closing date

Applications must be lodged with the ABA by **17 March 2000** on the approved form, *Form ABA 32: Application for the Allocation of a Community Broadcasting Licence (Broadcasting Services Bands)*.

Applicants must provide full and complete answers to all questions in the application.

To apply for a licence

Prospective applicants must contact the ABA to obtain a copy of the application kit, including Form ABA32 (on disk), and the ABA's *Guide to Allocation of Community Broadcasting Licences (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. The ABA requests applicants to submit as much of the application as possible on disk. For copies of the application kit and information about how to apply for a community broadcasting licence, call the ABA's Licensing Section on (02) 9334 7700.

Applications will be on view: from 31 March 2000

on the ABA's web site at

- <www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/new_licence.htm>
- ABA Library at Level 16, Darling Park Tower 1, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney.

—in suburban areas

For suburban areas only, copies of the applications will be available for public perusal in the following relevant local libraries:

- Campbelltown City Library, cnr Hurley Street and Camden Road, Campbelltown ((02) 46201556),
- Penrith City Library, 601 High Street, Penrith ((02) 47327891),
- Blacktown City Council Library Service, Max Webber Library, Westfield Pl, Blacktown ((02) 98396677) and
- Hornsby Shire Council Library, 28-44 George Street, Hornsby ((02)98476813).

Copies of any letters of support included with applications will be made available for public perusal upon request to the ABA.

Submissions

The ABA welcomes written submissions from members of the public in relation to the applications received. Submissions should be lodged with the ABA by 5.00 pm on Thursday 20 April 2000. Submissions can be lodged by email to: community.licensing@aba.gov.au.