



The ABA has released draft licence area plans for Melbourne, Geelong and Colac and a proposed variation to the licence area plan for Shepparton.

# ABA proposes two new commercial radio services for Melbourne

The ABA is proposing to make licences available for two new commercial radio services in Melbourne, two new Melbourne-wide community radio services, six new local coverage community radio services and three new open narrowcasting services.

The proposals are contained in the draft licence area plans for Melbourne, Geelong and Colac and a proposed variation to the licence area plan for Shepparton.

'The preliminary views represent the ABA's thinking at this stage of the planning process,' said Professor Flint. 'Before reaching a final decision the ABA will have regard to the submissions obtained through public consultation on the draft licence area plans.'

The ABA proposes to make the licence for the first commercial radio service available with 12 months of finalisation of the Melbourne licence area plan, expected mid 2000. However, the actual commencement date of a new service would be contingent on the existing community radio service, 3YYR

Geelong, moving to a new frequency. The licence for the second service is proposed to be made available four years after the Melbourne licence area plan has been determined.

Finalisation of the licence area plans is dependent on the information the ABA receives in response to its preliminary views and the ABA's own assessment as to the most economic and efficient use of the radiofrequency spectrum.

The ABA is proposing changes in power to existing national, wide-coverage community and AM commercial radio services in order to improve reception in the Melbourne area. It also proposes an extension of licence area for the existing community radio service 3NOW (Melbourne Inner North West Suburbs) and is seeking comments on a possible extension to the licence area of existing community radio service 3RIM Melton.

In Geelong, the ABA proposes to make licences available for one new commercial, one new community and two open narrowcasting radio

services. It is also proposing a change in frequency increase in power and extension of licence area for the existing community radio service, 3YYR Geelong. Depending on the results of testing currently under way in Geelong, the ABA may propose to make a second new community radio service available.

The ABA proposes a change to the licence area of the existing commercial radio service 3CAT Geelong to excise the Bacchus Marsh area and make the 3CAT and 3BAY licence areas identical.

In Colac, the ABA is proposing an extension to the licence areas of the two Colac commercial radio services 3CS, (which operates on the AM band) and 3CCS, to include Apollo Bay and to make chan-

nel capacity available for transmitters for the 3CCS service at Lorne and Apollo Bay. It is also proposing to make one new community radio service available with channel capacity for transmitters at Lorne and Apollo Bay.

In the Shepparton region, the ABA is proposing an extension to the licence area of the Alexandra/Eildon community radio service. The ABA is also proposing to make channel capacity available for transmitters for the service at Yea and Marysville.



The draft licence area plans for the Melbourne area (including Colac and Geelong) can be viewed at <[www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au)> and at local libraries. Copies are available from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. The closing date for comments on the draft licence area plans was 28 January 2000.

The ABA proposes to release draft plans for Brisbane (including Gympie, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, Lismore and Murwillumbah), Adelaide and Perth in the first half of 2000.