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The licensees have 12 months to get the new service up and running.

'The proposed services will add to the range and diversity of services in these regions,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The ABA has allocated these licences after consulting with the people of the local communities to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their areas.

Bega

The licence was allocated to Bega Access Radio Inc. and the new service will broadcast on 93.7 MHz on the FM band.

Bega Access Radio 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.

Coffs Harbour

The licence was allocated to Holiday Coast to operate a service on 107.9 MHz on the FM band from 1 January 2000.

The ABA received two applications for the new community radio licence. The application from Holliday Coast was for a service representing the whole community of Coffs Harbour and in particular the mature aged community, and the other was from Coffs Harbour Christian Broadcasters Inc., representing the Christian community.

The ABA decided to allocate the licence to Holiday Coast as it considered that its proposed service would better meet the needs of the Coffs Harbour community.

'This was a difficult decision between the two applicants, each of whom had different strengths,' said Professor Flint.

Grafton

The licence was allocated to Clarence Valley Christian Broadcasters Inc. and the new service will broadcast on 103.1 MHz on the FM band.

The ABA received one application for this licence, and assessed it as to whether it would meet existing and future community needs.

Clarence Valley Christian Broadcasters currently operates a full time service under a temporary community broadcasting licence.

Bendigo

The ABA has allocated two new community radio licences for Bendigo, Victoria.

The licence with the larger licence area, covering Bendigo, Castlemaine, Maryborough and Rochester, was allocated to Vision Australia Foundation to broadcast a service on 88.7 MHz on the FM band.

The licence with the smaller licence area, covering Bendigo and Castlemaine, was allo-

cated to Bendigo FM Education Broadcasting Inc. to broadcast a service on 96.5 and 106.3 MHz on the FM band.

The ABA received four applications for the licence with the larger licence area: from Vision Australia Foundation, Bendigo FM Education Broadcasting Inc, Central Victorian Gospel Radio Inc. and Bendigo Aboriginal Transmission Association Inc. Two applications were received for the licence with the smaller licence area, from Vision Australia Foundation and Bendigo FM Education Broadcasting Inc.

Toowoomba

The licence was allocated to Toowoomba Christian Broadcasters Association Inc. (The Light) to take effect from Wednesday 1 March 2000, following the expiry of its temporary community broadcasting licence on 29 February 2000. The service will broadcast on 92.9 MHz on the FM band.

The ABA received two applications for the new community radio licence from Toowoomba Christian Broadcasters, and Music Broadcasting Society of Queensland Ltd.

