



## **Datacasting test transmissions**

Datacasting test transmissions will be conducted in the Canberra, Newcastle and Sydney markets from late May to 30 November 2000. The trials will enable aspirant datacasters to test the technical feasibility of their services.

The conduct of the test transmissions will not prejudice the allocation of spectrum for permanent datacasting services, nor the regulatory arrangements that will apply to permanent licences and which have yet to be finalised.

The following table shows the organisations that will be conducting test transmissions in each market.

SYDNEY	f2, ITVA, News Ltd, ntl, Online Media Group and Telstra
CANBERRA	f2, ntl
NEWCASTLE	Online Media Group, Telstra

For more information about the datacasting trial, and the regulatory policy, go to the ABA's web site at <[www.aba.gov.au/what/datacasting](http://www.aba.gov.au/what/datacasting)>.

## **New non-BSB service for Busselton/Margaret River**

The ABA has allocated a new commercial radio broadcasting licence to serve the Busselton/Margaret River area of Western Australia. The licensee may not use the broadcasting services bands to deliver its service.

The licence has been allocated to South West Broadcasting Pty Ltd.

South West Broadcasting Pty Ltd must commence its service within 12 months of being allocated the licence, or within a longer period as approved by the ABA.

### **How was the licence allocated?**

Under section 40 of the Act the ABA may allocate to a person, on application in writing, a commercial radio broadcasting licence for a service which does not use the broadcasting services bands. The broadcasting services bands is that part of the radiofrequency spectrum on which normal AM and FM radio services and free-to-air television services are provided.

Before allocating a section 40 licence the ABA must designate a particular area in Australia as the licence area of the licence. Designating a licence area allows the control provisions of the Act to be applied to the service.

Applicants must pay a fee.

## **What are the differences between broadcasting services bands and non-broadcasting services bands commercial broadcasting licences?**

The Act sets out significantly different regulatory regimes for commercial broadcasting services that use the broadcasting services bands and those that do not. The intention of the Act in establishing a lighter regulatory regime for non-broadcasting services bands services is to foster and encourage the introduction of a range of new services using alternative technologies.

A licence for a broadcasting services bands commercial broadcasting service authorises the licensee to both provide a commercial radio service and to have access to radiofrequency spectrum to carry the service. In other words, a broadcasting services bands licence authorises both content and carriage. Because licences using the broadcasting services bands allow use of a scarce and valuable public resource — the radiofrequency spectrum — they are limited in supply.

## **Sydney licences auction**

The ABA will auction two new commercial radio licences, one for Sydney and one for Campbelltown on Wednesday 24 May 2000. There were 15 applicants for the licence to serve Sydney and 9 for the licence to serve Campbelltown.

The auction will be in the Northern Pavilion, Darling Park, 201 Sussex Street at 10 a.m. Registered applicants must check in between 8.30 and 9.45 a.m. Only registered applicants may bid for the licence. For more information about the auction, call Patricia Sharpe, ABA Licensing, on (02) 9334 7827.

## **New community radio licences for Queanbeyan and Tuggeranong**

The ABA has allocated two new community radio licences, one for Queanbeyan, New South Wales and the other for Tuggeranong, Australian Capital Territory.

The Queanbeyan licence was allocated to Queanbeyan Community Radio QBN-FM Inc. to broadcast on 96.7 MHz on the FM band from Queanbeyan, and from 107.7 MHz from Williamsdale.

The Tuggeranong licence was allocated to Valley FM Broadcasters Association Inc. to

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broadcast on 89.5 MHz on the FM band from Tuggeranong.

'The proposed services will add to the range and diversity of services in the Queanbeyan and Tuggeranong areas,' said Professor Flint. 'Both applicants satisfied the ABA they would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in their respective areas.'

The ABA has allocated these licences after a process of consultation with the people of the local community, to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

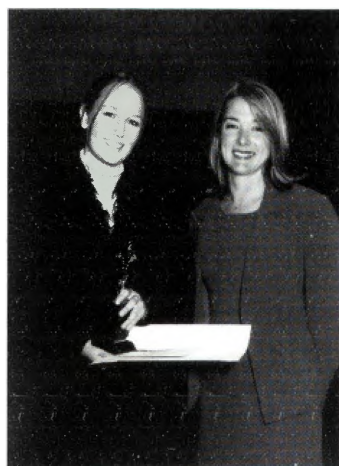
Queanbeyan Community Radio and Valley FM Broadcasters currently operate full time services under temporary community

## ATOM Awards

The ABA sponsored and awarded five prizes to outstanding video entries by primary school and secondary school students at the 15th annual ATOMFEST awards at the Sydney Opera House on 7 April 2000.

Organised by the Australian Teachers of Media (NSW), the festival celebrates the creative media and visual talents of young people. Awards include best comedy, drama animation, documentary and from this year, multimedia, within the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

As one of its 20 Years of C initiatives last year, the ABA agreed to sponsor the 'Best of the Millenium' awards which featured video entries from the 15 years of the festival. Nadia Mencinsky, Assistant Manager Standards (pictured left with one of the winning students), presented the awards.



## ABA contribution to Olympic broadcasting

The ABA, like other Government agencies, is playing its part in ensuring a most successful Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The ABA is participating in committees and work groups that are currently planning all the activities and services associated with the Games. These include the Commonwealth Reference Group on the Sydney 2000 Games convened by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Sydney Olympic Communications Coordination Committee (SOCCC) and the Sydney Olympic Broadcasting Organisation (SOBO).

The ABA's aim is, 'To enhance the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games by facilitating the availability of radiofrequency spectrum for the purpose of providing additional radio services and for supporting television broadcasting related activities'.

The ABA has facilitated the provision of 10 additional low power FM radio services required at the various Olympic venues. It has also made available sufficient spectrum to facilitate the use of additional wireless microphones for television broadcasts: 122 television channels in total. This spectrum was formally released under section 34 of the Broadcasting Services Act enabling the Australian Communications Authority to licence these assignments to SOCOG as required.



## C and P programs

*Programs granted C and P classification between 17 February and 14 April 2000. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Nadia Mencinsky, Assistant Manager Standards, on (02) 9334 7840.*

Program title	Origin	Class.	New renewal	Decision date	Applicant
D.U.D.S (DOWNUNDER DROPOUTS)	Australia	PRC	new	28-3-2000	Becker Entertainment
WANNABE	Australia	PRC	new	6-4-2000	Imagination Entertainment
GOODSPORTS (Series 9)	Australia	C	new	6-4-200	WIN Television Tasmania

*P – preschool, PRC – provisional C, Class – classification*