



The ABA has released draft licence area plans for Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Murwillumbah, Lismore, Nambour and Gympie, and seeks comment on the plans, by 5.00pm on 28 July 2000.

Two new commercial radio services for Brisbane?

The ABA is proposing to make licences available for two new commercial radio services in Brisbane. The ABA is also proposing to make new commercial radio licences available on the Gold Coast and at Nambour. New community licences are proposed in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Gympie, Noosa, Coraki, Casino, Nimbin, Byron Bay, Murwillumbah and Nambour.

The proposals are contained in the draft licence area plans for Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Murwillumbah, Lismore, Nambour and Gympie.

'The preliminary views represent the ABA's thinking at this stage of the planning process,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'Before reaching a final decision the ABA will very carefully consider the submissions obtained through public consultation on the draft licence area plans. The ABA seeks information from interested parties that will assist in making informed decisions in the licence area planning process.'

The ABA proposes to make the licence for the first commercial radio service in Bris-

bane available soon after finalisation of the Brisbane licence area plan, expected later this year. The second service is proposed to be made available two years after the Brisbane licence area plan has been determined.

Apart from the two new commercial licences, the ABA is proposing to make licences available for two additional community radio services (one AM and one FM) in Brisbane and one new community radio service in Beaudesert. The ABA also proposes to make an AM open narrowcasting service available in Brisbane.

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.

Metropolitan LAPs

The draft licence area plans are the third to be released for the metropolitan areas. Draft plans for Sydney and Melbourne were released in 1999, and the final licence area plans for Sydney and Melbourne

Main issues

The main planning issue disclosed to date by the ABA's consultation process 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 proposals.

Brisbane

The ABA is proposing:

- to make available two additional wide-coverage FM commercial radio services, with the allocation of the first service immediately after the determination of the licence area plan and the second service two years after determination of the licence area plan;
- that commercial radio services 4BC, 4BH and 4KQ forward proposals for an increase in power that will have minimum impact on existing and planned services to allow for day/night switching;
- to make a FM channel available for commercial radio service 4TAB at Mount Dunsinane, with a power increase for its main transmitter and an extension of its licence area to include the Shire of Beaudesert;
- to make available two additional wide-coverage community radio services, one AM and one FM;
- that community radio service 4EB convert from AM to FM transmission, with a licence area extension to cover the same area as the other existing wide coverage community radio services;
- power increases for the existing FM community radio services 4MBS and 4ZZZ;
- a power increase for the 4OUR, 4BAY and 4RED local coverage community radio services;
- to make one additional local coverage Beaudesert community radio service available; and
- to make one AM open narrowcasting service available.



were released in December 1999 and June 2000, respectively. The draft plans for the remaining metropolitan markets, Adelaide and Perth are proposed to be released in late 2000.

Planning

The draft licence area plans contain details of all national, commercial, community and open narrowcasting radio broadcasting services that are proposed to be 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 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. The ABA will generally begin the allocation process after a final licence area plan for each area has been determined.

Public submissions

The closing date for comments on the preliminary views and the draft licence area plans is **5.00 p.m. 28 July 2000**.

Send submissions by

email metrodraftlap@aba.gov.au

mail Planning officer for [area]
ABA Planning Branch
PO Box 34
Belconnen ACT 2616

fax 02 6253 3277

Please quote file numbers in submissions (see p.5 discussion paper for all file numbers).

Copies of the plans

The draft licence area plans for Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Murwillumbah, Lismore, Nambour and Gympie, and the variation to the Remote North East Zone licence area plan can be viewed at the ABA's web site: www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/licence_area_plans.htm.

Copies of the licence area plans are available from the ABA, tel: Freecall 1800 810 241.

They are also available for viewing at local libraries.

Ipswich

The ABA is proposing:

- not to make available an additional commercial radio service;
- to change the transmitter site of the Ipswich commercial radio service 4QFM to Mt Nebo with an associated power increase to 32 kW (500 W in the direction of Brisbane).

Gold Coast

The ABA is proposing:

- to make one additional FM commercial radio service available;
- to extend the licence areas of existing commercial radio services to include Mt Tamborine;
- subject to test transmission of the proposed additional commercial radio service, to consider changing the frequency of the community radio service 4DDB Toowoomba, with compensation for costs incurred in changing frequency;
- to make three high power FM community radio services available; and
- to make one FM open narrowcasting radio service available.

Murwillumbah

The ABA is proposing:

- not to make available an additional commercial radio service;
- not to make a FM translator available for the existing AM commercial operator (2MW), to improve reception within its licence area;
- to make a new community FM radio service available; and
- to make one AM open narrowcasting service available.

Lismore

The ABA is proposing:

- not to make available an additional commercial radio service;
- to make four new community FM radio services available to serve Byron Bay, Casino, Coraki and Nimbin;
- to make one FM open narrowcasting radio service available.

Nambour

The ABA is proposing:

- to make one additional commercial FM radio service available;
- to make two new community FM radio services available; and
- to make one AM open narrowcasting service available.

Gympie

The ABA is proposing:

- not to make available an additional commercial radio service;
- to make one new community FM radio service available in Gympie and one new community FM radio service available in Noosa; and
- to make one FM open narrowcasting radio service available.

Remote North East Zone

The ABA is proposing

- to make the frequency 98.5 MHz available for 4SUN to operate from Mt Cainbale;
- to extend the licence area of 4SUN to include the towns of Beaudesert and Jimboomba. The existing 4SUN low-powered transmitters at Rathdowney and Mt Tamborine will be required to close down when the new frequencies begin operation; and
- to make a second licence available to the licensee of 4SUN. The proposed service would operate on 99.3 MHz on the FM band to from Mt Cainbale. The ABA will consider proposals for additional transmitters for the second service at a future date.

