



The ABA is proposing to expand commercial and community radio services in Tasmania and Western Australia.

New radio services proposed for Tasmania and WA

Tasmania

The ABA is proposing to make licences available for new commercial radio services in Burnie and Scottsdale, along with new community radio services in George Town, the Northern Midlands, Scottsdale and Hobart and an open narrowcasting radio service in Hobart. The ABA is also proposing to extend the licence areas of community radio services 7HFC Hobart and 7RGY Geeveston.

'The preliminary views represent the ABA's thinking at this stage of the planning process,' said Lyn Maddock, ABA Deputy Chair. 'The ABA is now seeking information from interested parties that will assist it in making final decisions. In this process, the ABA will have regard to all the submissions obtained through public consultation on the draft licence area plans.'

While at this stage the ABA has not identified channel capacity for open narrowcasting radio services in the Tasmanian markets,

other than Hobart, it recognises the important role these services provide to the diversity of services available in a market and seeks further submissions from aspirant narrowcasting service providers.

The ABA also wishes to encourage aspirant community groups in the Queenstown and Devonport markets that may wish to broadcast. As the ABA is not aware of any aspirant groups in either market at this stage, it has not proposed to make services available in these markets. The ABA, however, considers that community broadcasting has an important contribution to make to broadcasting in a market and seeks submissions from any interested parties.

Also proposed are additional commercial radio services in Burnie and Scottsdale. The licensee of the existing AM commercial services, 7BU and 7SD, has applied for an additional commercial licence


in each of these markets under section 39 of the Act.

In the Launceston area, the ABA is proposing to make channels available at Mt Arthur, to improve reception in the Tamar Valley for community radio services 7LTN and 7WAY, and to make additional FM community radio services available in George Town and the Northern Midlands.

New FM community radio services are also proposed for Scottsdale, in the Break O'Day Shire.

The ABA is also proposing to extend the licence area of Hobart community radio service 7HFC to be the same as the existing commercial radio services in Hobart and is proposing the service change frequency in order to provide a higher power service to the extended region. Also proposed is an extension of the Hobart community radio service 7RGY's licence area to include the Huonville, Kingston and Blackman's Bay

areas. The ABA has also proposed to make available two additional community radio services and one open narrowcasting service in Hobart.

In an attempt to improve reception of the Wynyard community radio service, 7DBS, the ABA is also proposing to make a channel available at Willis Hill. 

The draft licence area plans for Tasmania can be viewed at the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/licence_area_plans.htm

Copies of the licence area plans are available from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241 and will be available for viewing at local libraries.

Submissions on the plans are due by 28 September 2001.



Perth

To improve reception of the existing Perth commercial AM radio services 6IX and 6PR, the ABA proposes to make one FM frequency available to each licensee for additional transmitters to serve the northern and southern parts of the Perth licence area. The ABA proposes that commercial radio service 6IX would operate translators at Wanneroo in the north and at Rockingham in the south, both on 105.7 MHz. 6PR would be allocated 106.5 MHz to operate translators in both locations.

Also proposed is the availability of channel capacity for five new community radio services, one Perth-wide service and four local coverage services available at Armadale (on 107.3 MHz), Kalamunda (on 102.5 MHz), Wanneroo (on 89.7 MHz) and Fremantle (on 91.3 MHz).

In addition, the ABA is proposing to make two AM and two FM channels

available for open narrowcasting services. The AM services would operate on 657 kHz from Hamersley and on 1206 kHz from Ascot Waters, both at a maximum power of 2 kW. The FM services would operate on 103.3 MHz and 104.9 MHz, both at 50 W from Joondanna Water Tower.

'The ABA recognises that the AM transmission problem in Perth is unique, due to the city's poor soil conductivity. However, it believes the AM solution proposed in the revised draft would effectively improve the overall coverage,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'Although the ABA has the power to convert commercial AM services to the FM band, it would not normally use the planning process for FM conversion. FM conversion by commercial AM operators will only be considered when no suitable AM solution can be identified.'

Before reaching a final decision, the ABA will have regard to the submissions obtained through public consultation on the revised draft licence area plan. The ABA seeks information from interested parties that will assist it in making informed decisions in the licence area planning process.

Finalisation of the licence area plan 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 draft licence area plans for Perth can be viewed at the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/laps/perth.htm

Copies of the licence area plan are available from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241 and will be available for viewing at local libraries.

Submissions on the plans were due on 31 August 2001.