



Improved radio coverage for Noosa and Mt Tamborine, Qld

The ABA has varied the radio licence area plans for Gympie and Nambour, making spectrum available for additional translator services in the Noosa/Tewantin area to rectify a signal deficiency.

The translators will provide better coverage of 4GY Gympie (on 1323 kHz), 4NNN Gympie (on 100.5 MHz), 4SSS Nambour (on 103.3 MHz) and 4SEE Nambour (on 102.5 MHz).

The new (unallocated) commercial radio service in the Nambour licence area will also have additional spectrum made available for a translator in the Noosa/Tewantin area.

The ABA has also varied the Remote North East Zone licence area plan to make an alternative frequency available for the commercial radio service, 4SUN, at Mt Tamborine. However, the ABA has decided not to make spectrum available to extend the 4SUN service into Caloundra. The ABA has also decided to make spectrum available at Mt Tamborine for 4SUN's additional licence that was made available under s.39 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

'Before deciding on the most effective solution for the existing commercial radio services in Gympie, Nambour and the Remote North East Zone to provide an adequate service to all of their current licence areas, the ABA took into account the views of all who made submissions to the draft variations,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The ABA is proposing to review the planning and licensing framework for remote commercial radio services, with a view to identifying possible alternative approaches for providing commercial radio services to listeners in remote Australia and to strengthen the viability of such services.

The ABA notes the findings of the recent Inquiry into Regional Radio by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts concerning difficulties faced by licensees in attempting to service all areas within the remote commercial radio services zone and the

recommendations concerning improved access to commercial radio services in remote areas. In conducting the review the ABA will also take account of the potential improvement in access to radio services in remote communities resulting from the Government's proposed programs to extend services.

The ABA's investigation will examine the nature and characteristics of remote commercial radio services, issues affecting the commercial viability of these services, the appropriateness of current planning and licensing arrangements for remote commercial radio services, and alternative arrangements for delivery of commercial radio services to remote areas (including, but not limited to technological issues). The terms of reference for the ABA investigation will be announced when the investigation commences in the new year.



ABA conference 2002

The ABA's second annual conference, ***What will Australian audiences want?***, will be held 29-30 April 2002 at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra.

A call for papers brochure, including a registration form, is enclosed in this issue of *ABA Update*.

For more information about the call for papers, contact Bev McConnell on (02) 9334 7830 or Kelly O'Hara on (02) 9334 7869.

For regular updates on the ABA conference 2002, check out the ABA web site at www.aba.gov.au/conference2002/index.htm.

