



Applications invited for commercial radio licence for Brisbane

The ABA has invited applications for a new commercial radio broadcasting licence to serve Brisbane. The proposed service will operate on 97.3 MHz on the FM band.

The licence will be allocated in accordance with the price-based allocation system set out in the Determination made pursuant to section 36 of the Broadcasting Services Act. Subject to the requirements of the Determination and the Act being satisfied, the licence will be allocated to the highest bidder at an auction-style licence allocation exercise. The reserve price for the licence is \$500 000.

The application period will close at midnight on Thursday 26 April 2001. Companies interested in applying for the licence must purchase an information package titled *Price-based Allocation of Commercial Broadcasting Licence* from the ABA, price \$50 (incl. GST).

The information package explains how to apply for a licence, provides technical specifications about the service for which the licence is available, and contains copies of the forms to be completed by intending applicants. The package also contains details of the price-based system determined by the ABA, the conditions that apply to commercial broadcasting licences and other information relating to the licence area of the licence being offered for allocation.

To purchase a copy of the information package please call Deb Farina on (02) 9334 7878.

Application closing date:

midnight, Thursday
26 April 2001

For more information

Deb Farina on
(02) 9334 7878.

follows a request from the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations to vary CTS 3 to make the provisions more workable within the framework of network scheduling practices.

CTS 3 requires, among other things, that licensees nominate C and P periods during which C and P programs must be broadcast. These nominated periods can be varied or displaced in specific circumstances, for example, to provide for the live coverage of major sporting events or events of national importance. Proposed changes to CTS 3 are administrative only and do not change the underlying policy for the notification requirements for the scheduling of children's programs by commercial television broadcasters.

In summary, the three proposed variations are:

- 1 two week (14 days) rather than one month period for notification to vary a program schedule;
- 2 72 rather than 48 hour period to notify ABA of failure to broadcast in accordance with a program schedule; and
- 3 inclusion of 'unforeseen occurrence, cancellation or early completion' of an event of national importance or major sporting event as reasons for licensees failing to broadcast in accordance with their program schedules.

The ABA invited comment from all commercial television broadcasters and from children's interest groups before finalising its draft variation. Public submissions closed on 23 March and the ABA expects to determine the variation shortly.

The draft variation instrument and the information paper, *Children's Television Standards Variation*, are on the ABA web site at www.aba.gov.au/what/program/kids/variation.htm. The complete CTS are also available on the web site, www.aba.gov.au/what/program/kids/index.htm.

Proposed variation to CTS

The ABA has invited public submissions on its proposal to vary the notification and displacement provisions of the Children's Television Standards (CTS) that apply to commercial television services. The proposal

C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 26 February and 20 March 2001. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA's Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.

Program title	Origin	Class.	New/renewal	Decision date	Applicant
THE BIG ARVO (SERIES 2)	Australia	C	new	19-3-01	Seven Network Ltd

C - children's program, C Drama - C Australian drama program, P - preschool program, Class. - Classification