



indigenous community in the Sydney licence area.

Muslim Community Radio

Muslims in the Sydney licence area live in a society in which the dominant culture is Christian or derived from a Christian origin. The Muslim religion prescribes in some considerable detail the daily life of its adherents, yet a Muslim in a country such as Australia is isolated from his or her languages, Muslim religious teaching, the recitation of the Quran, and Islamic music. The religious content of the service proposed by MCR would directly meet the need of the Muslim community for religious broadcasting.

In addition to specifically religious programming, MCR will provide programming that addresses local news, announcements, information from the social sector and social issues of the day, all from an Islamic perspective. MCR has produced and would continue to produce contemporary music and entertainment (in Arabic, English and other languages) that is valid to Islam, sensitive to the philosophies of the Australian environment and reflects the interests and tastes of the local community. MCR claims that such activities will empower the Islamic and Arabic communities, while maintaining cultural identity woven into a better understanding of Australian philosophies.

The ABA has given some consideration to the question of the extent to which MCR represents the community interest that it claims to serve. This is because the ABA has received submissions that indicate that some groups within the Muslim community do not support MCR's application. Having considered the evidence, however, the ABA is satisfied that MCR has the support of a reasonable proportion of the Muslim population of the Sydney licence area (possibly around one-third), and that at least some of MCR's proposed broadcasts would have a common appeal. The ABA notes that during the 18 test broadcasts conducted by MCR, including during Ramadan, it did not receive any negative comments or complaints from the Muslim community about MCR's broadcasts.

The ABA also notes that in November 2000, MCR was the recipient of an award from the CBAA for its contribution to ethnic broadcasting.

Which licence should be allocated to which successful applicant?

Having considered the financial information provided by FBi, Gadigal and MCR in their applications, and submissions made at the licence allocation hearing by the three applicants, the ABA decided to allocate the three available licences as follows:

Service licence number	Frequency	Maximum ERP	Applicant
SL 1150109	94.5 MHz	150 kW	Free Broadcast Inc
SL 1150110	92.1MHz	15 kW	Muslim Community Radio
SL 1150111	93.7 MHz	50 kW	Gadigal Information Service

See page 7 for information about the proposed variation to the Sydney licence area plan

New community radio licences for Penrith and Bacchus Marsh

Penrith

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for Penrith, New South Wales, to Way Out West Fine Music Inc. (WOW FM).

WOW FM will broadcast its service on 100.7 MHz on the FM band and has 12 months in which to commence its service.

'The proposed service will provide programming targeted to meet the needs of the Penrith community and will have programs aimed at non-English speakers, children, young people and the unemployed,' said Professor Flint. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Penrith licence area.'

The ABA assessed two applications for the new community radio licence: from Way Out West Fine Music and Nepean Riverland Community Radio Association.

The ABA decided to allocate the licence to Way Out West Fine Music as it considered that in comparison to the other applicant's proposed service, this group's service would better meet the needs of the Penrith community.

Bacchus Marsh

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, to Bacchus Marsh Community Radio Inc.

The service will broadcast on 98.5 on the FM band. Bacchus Marsh Community Radio is currently broadcasting on that frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence which expires on 30 June 2001. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 July 2001.

Bacchus Marsh Community Radio was the only applicant for the licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet existing and perceived future community needs.

Bacchus Marsh Community Radio current temporary service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues, news, information and music that appeals to the many different community groups across the Bacchus Marsh licence area.