



6BET Bridgetown to move to FM band

At the request of the local licensee, Elldale Pty Ltd, the ABA has decided to allow the Bridgetown, Western Australia, commercial service 6BET to move from the AM band to the frequency 100.5 MHz on the FM band.

In the 1996 Bridgetown licence area plan, an AM frequency (1269 kHz) was made available for a second commercial radio service under section 39 of the Broadcasting Services Act. The licence for the new service was allocated to Elldale Pty Ltd, the licensee of the existing 6BY AM service.

The ABA said that it would be prepared to vary the licence area plan to assign a FM frequency for the section 39 service, if the licensee could demonstrate via test transmissions that a suitable FM frequency was available in Bridgetown. The licensee has identified the FM radiofrequency as suitable to replace the AM frequency.

No changes have been made to the other existing commercial radio service 6BY in Bridgetown, also owned and operated by Elldale.

The ABA determined the radio licence area plan for Bridgetown on 5 November 1996.

Section 39 of the Act entitles the licensee of a commercial radio service to apply for a second

licence in licence areas where its existing service operates under the only commercial radio licence in the area. In the first two years of operating the new licence, even if the licences are transferred, the same licensee must operate both the existing and the new (section 39) service.

The licensee of the service has identified 100.5 MHz at a maximum ERP of 5 kW as suitable FM spectrum. Engineering assessment has identified the potential for this frequency to cause tropospheric interference, due to co-channelling, with the neighbouring commercial FM service in Narrogin (6NAN). However, a path profile assessment indicated that the Darling Ranges provide a natural barrier between Bridgetown and Narrogin.

Testing of the service in accordance with the ABA's Technical Planning Guidelines confirmed the suitability of the FM spectrum.

The ABA developed suitable technical specifications for the new FM service, which were circulated for comment on 9 June 2000, with the closing date set at 7 July 2000. The ABA received one submission, from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) which did not oppose the proposed variation.

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in April 2001

Area served	Licensee	Frequency (MHz)	Period	Date allocated
New South Wales				
Ballina	Paradise F M Community Radio Association Inc.	101.9	1-5-2001 to 30-4-2002	24-4-2001
Blacktown	Western Community-Radio Association Inc.	99.9	29-4-2001 to 26-5-2001	24-4-2001
Hornsby	2 HHH FM Ltd	100.1	29-4-2001 to 26-5-2001	24-4-2001
Yass	Yass Community Radio Association Inc.	100.3	1-5-2001 to 30-4-2002	26-4-2001
Victoria				
Melbourne	Melbourne Pulse Radio Inc.	94.9	9-4-2001 to 6-5-2001	3-4-2001
Waverley	Monash University Union Radio Inc.	95.7	4-5-2001 to 30-6-2001	24-4-2001
Queensland				
Moranbah	Rock FM Association Inc.	96.9	14-4-2001 to 13-4-2002	10-4-2001
Western Australia				
Armadale	Heritage FM Inc.	93.7	1-5-2001 to 30-9-2001	26-4-2001
Geraldton	Soncity FM Inc.	97.3	1-5-2001 to 1-2-2002	26-4-2001
Tasmania				
Tasman Peninsula	Tasman Community Broadcasters Association Inc.	89.3	28-4-2001 to 1-2-2002	24-4-2001

