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The ABA allocated new community radio licences for Casino, Coraki and Nimbin in northern NSW during June 2002.

The Casino licence was allocated to Casino's Own Wireless Association Inc to serve the general community. The new service will broadcast on 107.9 MHz on the FM band.

The Coraki licence was allocated to Community Radio Coraki Association Inc to serve the general community. The new service will broadcast on 88.9 MHz on the FM band.

The Nimbin licence was allocated to Nimbin Independent Media Inc to serve the general community. The new service will broadcast on 102.3 MHz on the FM band. All three permanent licences will commence on 1 July 2002.

'The proposed services will add to the range and diversity of radio services in the Casino, Coraki and Nimbin regions,' the ABA Chairman said. 'The applicants satisfied the ABA that they would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general communities in their respective licence areas.'

The ABA has allocated these licences after community

consultation during the licence area planning process and during the assessment process.

All three services currently operate seven days a week, 24 hours a day as temporary community broadcasters.

Background

The Casino, Coraki and Nimbin areas are currently served by four national radio services: 2ABCRN, 2NNR, 2ABCFM and 2JJJ, and two commercial radio services: 2LM and 2ZZZ. They are also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and commercial television services: NRN, NEN and NBN.

On 22 December 2000, the ABA finalised the radio licence area plan for the Lismore area in NSW. It determined that five new community broadcasting licences be made available to serve each of the following areas: Ballina, Byron Bay, Casino, Coraki and Nimbin. The ABA allocated the licence for Bryon Bay on 14 December 2001, and advertised for the licences in Ballina, Casino, Coraki and Nimbin on 21 December 2001.

Community licence allocation

Part 6 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, provides for the allocation of community broadcasting licences.

The ABA uses a merit based allocation process where applicants compete on the basis of merit for the licence. The process includes opportunity for the public to comment on applications received.

The ABA must have regard to:

- (a) the extent to which the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community within the licence area of the proposed service; and
- (b) the nature and diversity of the interests of that community;
- (c) the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within that licence area;
- (d) the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service;
- (e) the undesirability of one person being in a position to exercise control of more

than one community broadcasting licence that is a broadcasting services bands licence in the same licence area; and

(f) the undesirability of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or a political party being in a position to exercise control of a community broadcasting licence.

The Minister may also give directions to the ABA to give priority to a particular community interest or interests.



To contact the new licensees, please call Mr Karl Gottsche, Secretary/Public Officer of Casino's Own Wireless Association Inc on (02) 6662 2251

Mr Roger Wood, Chairman of Community Radio Coraki Association Inc on (02) 6683 2778

Mr Stuart Cameron, President of Nimbin Independent Media Inc on (02) 6689 0279.