



Audiences of commercial radio services 4SUN/4RBL in the Mount Tamborine area will benefit from the variation to the licence area plan for the Remote North East Zone.

Improved availability of commercial radio services in the remote north east zone licence area

The ABA has varied the radio licence area plan for the Remote North East Zone, to improve the availability of the commercial radio services, 4SUN/4RBL, to audiences in the Mount Tamborine area.

The ABA is making an alternative medium power frequency available at Mount Tamborine for the commercial radio service, 4SUN and for licensee Sun FM's additional service, 4RBL. The ABA is also making frequencies available for additional low power in-fill translators for both services at Eagle Heights and Canungra.

Before deciding on the most effective solution for the Remote North East Zone commercial radio services to provide adequate services to Mount Tamborine, the ABA took into account the views of all who made submissions to the draft variation.

Providing additional translator services for the existing services will rectify coverage deficiencies in the Mount Tamborine area and also give the Sun FM services compara-

ble coverage to the fortuitous signal overspill from the Gold Coast commercial radio services, within Sun FM's licence area. The additional frequencies will give listeners in the area access to the radio services that are licensed to serve the Mt Tamborine area.

The ABA determined the Remote North East Zone Licence Area Plan in October 1996 and varied the licence area plan in November 1998, December 2000 and November 2001.

In determining the variation to the licence area plan in November 2001, the ABA made available medium power FM channel capacity for the commercial radio service Sun FM (4SUN) at Mount Tamborine. The ABA also made medium power FM channel capacity at Mt Tamborine for the additional commercial radio licence to be allocated to Sun FM (4RBL) under section 39 of the Broadcasting Services Act. Sun FM requested that a further test transmission be undertaken after the variation was finalised

to determine the efficacy of the frequencies.

Further engineering work and test transmissions have been undertaken to determine the most suitable channel capacity for transmitters to serve the Mount Tamborine area. The ABA believes that the best solution to provide a suburban coverage to the populated areas of Mount Tamborine and to maximise mobile reception of the 4SUN service, is to use a medium power frequency at Mount Tamborine with additional low power in-fill translators to serve Eagle Heights/North Tamborine and Canungra.

Channel capacity is made available as follows:

- 4SUN to operate on 99.4 MHz from the Broadcast Site, Golf Course Road, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 2 kW (Directional)
- 4SUN to operate on 91.3 MHz from, Telstra Radio Terminal, Eagle Heights, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 50 W (Directional), and
- 4SUN to operate on

93.7 MHz from Council Site Lahey's Lookout, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 100 W (Omnidirectional).

The additional licence available to the licensee of the Remote North East Zone under section 39 of the Act is varied to operate as follows:

- 4RBL to operate on 100.6 MHz* from Broadcast Site, Golf Course Road, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 2 kW (Directional)
- 4RBL to operate on 88.9 MHz from, Telstra Radio Terminal, Eagle Heights, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 50 W (Directional), and
- 4SUN to operate on 92.9 MHz from Council Site Lahey's Lookout, Mount Tamborine, with a maximum ERP of 100 W (Omnidirectional).

*The availability of 100.6 MHz is subject to test transmissions.

