



The ABA's variation to the licence area plan for Emerald and new licence area plans for Moranbah and Blackwater make two licences available for new community radio services to serve Moranbah and Blackwater, and channels available for four open narrowcasting services at Blair Athol.

New radio services for the Emerald region of Queensland

The ABA has decided to make two licences available for new community radio services to serve Moranbah and Blackwater and has made channels available for four open narrowcasting services at Blair Athol, Queensland.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its variation to the licence area plan for Emerald and its new licence area plans for Moranbah and Blackwater, released on 20 September.

'The ABA has taken into account the views of those who made submissions before deciding on the most beneficial mix of new services to be made available in the Emerald region,' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair.

The Moranbah community radio service will operate on 96.9 MHz. The Blackwater community radio service will operate on 92.7 MHz. The open narrowcasting radio services at Blair Athol will operate on 97.5 MHz, 98.3 MHz, 99.9 MHz and 100.7 MHz.

The licence area plan

The ABA determined the licence area plan for Emerald in March 1998 and varied the plan in November 1998.

In determining the variation to the licence area plan in November 1998, the ABA made channel capacity available for an FM open narrowcasting radio service in Moranbah on 96.9 MHz. This frequency was offered through the price-based allocation process, but no applications were received. The frequency is currently being used for a temporary community broadcasting service at Moranbah.

Following the variation to the licence area plan in November 1998, the ABA identified additional channel capacity on 92.7 MHz at Blackwater that could be made available for providing a community radio service. This frequency is also currently used for a temporary community broadcasting service at Blackwater.

In September 2001, the ABA

received an application for four open narrowcasting services to be made available at Blair Athol. The ABA established that the frequencies of 97.5 MHz, 98.3 MHz, 99.9 MHz and 100.7 MHz are suitable for the purpose of providing open narrowcasting services at Blair Athol.

The capacity set out for the open narrowcasting services at Blair Athol will be made available under a priced-based allocation process. The capacity set out for the community radio services at Moranbah and Blackwater will be made available by means of a merit-based system.

Channel capacity is made available as follows:

Community

- a service to operate on 96.9 MHz from Moranbah, with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W (omni-directional) and
- a service to operate on 92.7 MHz from Blackwater, with a maximum (ERP) of 600 W (omni-directional).

Open narrowcasting

- a service to operate on 97.5 MHz from a new transmitter site at Blair Athol Mine, with a maximum (ERP) of 50 W
- a service to operate on 98.3 MHz from a new transmitter site at Blair Athol Mine, with a maximum ERP of 50 W
- a service to operate on 99.9 MHz from a new transmitter site at Blair Athol Mine, with a maximum ERP of 50 W
- a service to operate on 100.3 MHz from a new transmitter site at Blair Athol Mine, with a maximum ERP of 50 W.

The licence area plans for Emerald, Moranbah and Blackwater can be viewed on the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/planning/laps_qld.htm or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

