



The ABA has allocated new community radio licences after community consultation during the licence area planning and allocation processes, and assessing whether the proposed services would meet existing and perceived future community needs.

New community radio licences for ...

Monaro, NSW

The successful applicant for the new community radio licence for the Monaro licence area, is Monaro Community Radio Incorporated (MCR), will provide a service on 90.5 MHz (Cooma), 93.9 MHz (Jindabyne) and 93.3 MHz (Monaro) on the FM band.

The Monaro licence area covers Cooma, Monaro and Jindabyne.

There were two applicants for the Monaro licence, MCR and High Country Community Media Association Incorporated (HCCMA). Both applicants were proposing to provide a general service, although HCCMA had a focus on multicultural broadcasting and seniors.

In the ABA's view, MCR demonstrated a clear commitment to meet the many and varied needs of the community within the Monaro licence area and it has also committed to keeping abreast of changing needs.

This licence was previously advertised in November 1999 but the ABA decided, after a thorough assessment process, not to allocate the licence at that time.

The Monaro area is currently served by four radio services — two commercial and two national. There is no existing licensed community broadcaster. The two commercial services

(2XL and 2SKI) provide general programming. Of the two national services, one (2CP) provides general programming and regional news whilst the other (2ABCRN) provides general programming and national news.

The ABA released a licence area plan for Cooma in July 1999.

Wagga Wagga, NSW

The successful applicant new community radio licence for the Wagga Wagga licence area, Riverina Christian Radio Incorporated (Life FM), will broadcast 101.9 MHz on the FM band.

Life FM is currently broadcasting on that frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 8 February 2003. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 9 February 2003. Life FM proposes to provide a service to meet the needs of the Christian community.

The Wagga Wagga licence area has eight radio services — two commercial (2WG, 2WZD), five national (2ABCRN, 2RVR, 2ABCFM, 2JJJ, 2SBS) and one community (2AAA).

The ABA released a licence area plan for Wagga Wagga in December 2001.

Boonah, Qld

The successful applicant for the new community radio licence for Boonah, Scenic Rim Broadcasting Association Inc. (Rim FM), will broadcast on 100.1 MHz on the FM band. Rim FM is currently broadcasting on that frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 16 March 2003. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 17 March 2003.

Rim FM was the only applicant for the licence.

Rim FM's 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, in addition to news, information and entertainment that appeals to the different community groups throughout the Boonah licence area.

The Boonah area is currently served by six national radio services; 4QR, 4RN, 4PB, 4JJJ, 4ABC and 4SBS; seven commercial radio services; 4BH, 4BC, 4KQ, 4MMM, 4BBB, 4MIX and 4TAB; and three community radio services; 4MBS, 4RPH and 4BSR (limited coverage). It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and commercial television services QTQ, TVQ and BTQ.

In December 2000, the ABA finalised the Ipswich radio licence area plan, which includes the Boonah licence area. It determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Boonah.

Nambour, Qld

The successful applicants for the two new community radio licences for Nambour, SDA Radio Association Inc. and Sunshine Coast Christian Broadcasters Association Inc., will provide services on 104.9 MHz and 106.5 MHz respectively, on the FM band.

The ABA received four applications for the licences, from: SDA Radio Incorporated (Sunshine FM), Sunshine Coast Christian Broadcasters Association Inc (Rhema FM), Caloundra Community Radio Incorporated (Beach FM) and Maleny Community Radio Incorporated (Hinterland FM).

'Sunshine FM has demonstrated that it is committed to providing the mature age service it currently provides, and continuing its current program of expansion of the focus of the service to include a variety of community interests in its programming. Rhema has demonstrated that it is dedicated to providing a Christian service to





the Nambour community,' said Professor Flint.

Two community licences for Nambour were made available following completion of the Nambour radio licence area plan in December 2000.

The Nambour area is currently served by three national radio services, 4SCR, 4ABC and 4JJJ and two Nambour wide commercial radio services, 4SEE and 4SSS. It is also served by national television services ABQ40 and SBS34, commercial television services STQ43, RTQ49 and TNQ46.

The ABA released a licence area plan for Nambour in December 2000.

Victor Harbor, SA

The successful applicants for the new community radio licence to serve the wider Fleurieu Peninsula area is Encounter FM Community Broadcasters Association Inc. It will provide a service on 89.3 MHz in Victor Harbor, 94.7 MHz in Strathalbyn and 88.3 MHz in Yankalilla.

The successful applicant for the licence to serve Victor Harbor only, Great Southern Community Broadcasters Association Inc., will provide a service on 90.1 MHz.

The ABA received three applications for the wider coverage Fleurieu Peninsula licence. The applicants were Encounter FM Community Broadcasters Association Inc (5EFM), Radio Alexandrina (Alex FM) Community Broadcasters Association Incorporated (Alex FM) and The Fleurieu Peninsula Christian Broadcasters Association Incorporated (Spirit FM).

The ABA received four applications for the Victor Harbor only licence. The applicants were the three listed above for the wider coverage licence, and

Great Southern Community Broadcasters Association Incorporated (GSFM).

The Victor Harbor region is within the licence area of the Adelaide commercial and community radio service, therefore nominally receiving 18 wide coverage services from Adelaide – five commercial, six national and six community. However, the region is within the southernmost point of the licence areas and is shadowed by Mount Terrible. Predicted field strength contour maps show that the level of signals in this area falls below a rural stereo grade of service.

Victor Harbor is within the licence areas of the commercial television services SAS58, NSW61 and ADS64 and the national television services ABS55 and SBS52.

The ABA released a licence area plan for Murray Bridge, which included the Victor Harbor region, in December 2001.

Northern Midlands, Tas

The successful applicant for the new community radio licence for the Northern Midlands area of Tasmania, Northern Midlands Community Broadcasters Inc. (Heart FM), will broadcast on 95.7 MHz on the FM band. Heart FM is currently broadcasting on that frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 30 April 2003. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 May 2003.

Heart FM was the only applicant for the licence. Its 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, in addition to news, information and entertainment

that appeals to the many different community groups across the Northern Midlands licence area.

The Northern Midlands area of Tasmania is currently served by four national radio services 7NT, 7JJJ, 7ABC and 7RN; two commercial radio services 7LA and 7EX and two community radio services 7LTN and 7WAY. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and commercial television services TNT and TVT.

In December 2001, the ABA finalised the Launceston radio licence area plan, which includes the Northern Midlands licence area.

Perth, WA

The successful applicant for the new community radio licence for the Perth licence area, Youth Media Society of Western Australia Incorporated (Groove FM), will broadcast 101.7 MHz on the FM band.

There were two applicants for the Perth licence, Groove FM (youth) and Capital Community Radio Incorporated (seniors).

Groove FM is proposing to provide a comprehensive service to meet the needs of young people, with a particular focus on students and youth aged between 12–26 years. In the ABA's view, this new service will provide young people with an opportunity to actively participate in the development and delivery of the service.

The Perth licence area has 18 Perth-wide radio services – six commercial (6IX, 6PPM, 6MIX, 6NOW, 6PR, NOVA), six national (6WF, 6RN, 6ABC, 6SBS, 6PB, 6JJJ) and six community (6NR, 6RPH, 6AR, 6EBA, 6SON, 6RTR).

The ABA released a licence area plan for Perth in October 2001.

No community radio licence in George Town, Tas

The ABA has decided not to allocate a community radio broadcasting licence in George Town, Tasmania at this time.

The ABA sought applications for the licence in September 2002. The sole applicant was Tamar FM Incorporated. Tamar FM proposed to serve the general community of the George Town licence area.

'After giving careful consideration to the criteria laid down in the legislation and the information provided by the applicant, the ABA has decided in this case not to allocate the licence,' said Professor Flint.

'The ABA finds that the applicant was not able to satisfy the ABA that it had the necessary financial, technical and management capacity to provide a broadcasting service that would adequately serve the George Town licence area. In addition, the applicant did not successfully demonstrate to the ABA that there was sufficient need and community interest within the licence area for its proposed service,' said Professor Flint.

'At some time in the future the matter may be reconsidered and then the licence can be readvertised. During the intervening period it is suggested that the unsuccessful applicant apply for a temporary community broadcasting licence, which will provide it with an opportunity to increase the number of community members actively involved in provision of its service,' he said.

Until such time as the ABA reconsiders a permanent allocation, the channel set aside for this licence (95.3 MHz) will continue to be made available for temporary community broadcasting.