



ABA investigations:

into Telstra commercial arrangements

The ABA has determined terms of reference for an investigation into the disclosure of commercial arrangements involving Telstra Corporation Limited.


'The ABA is charged with responsibility for monitoring the broadcasting industry. The ABA, in the exercise of its functions, will examine the issues raised in the terms of reference. The first stage of the investigation will involve collecting docu-

ments relevant to the terms of reference from the licensees of 2GB and 2UE, Telstra and other parties. Once documents are collected, the ABA will consider whether any further steps need to be taken in the investigation,' said Professor Flint.

In connection with the investigation, the ABA wishes to make it clear that it has formed no view whatsoever on the issues to date but is seeking documents to inform itself.

into control of 2CH and 2GB

On 13 November the ABA announced that the action brought by Macquarie Radio Network Pty Ltd, Harbour Radio Pty Ltd and Radio 2CH Pty Ltd (the applicants) against the ABA in the Federal Court, to prevent the ABA from publishing the terms of reference of its investigation into the control of 2GB and 2CH Sydney, has been discontinued. The applicants have agreed to pay the ABA's costs.

The ABA is continuing with its investigation. 

For information about these investigations, including the terms of reference, go to:
www.aba.gov.au/radio/investigations/current.htm

Australian Broadcasting Authority

third annual conference

The ABA's conference brings together professionals from government, the broadcasting industry and academic sectors.

It is an ideal opportunity to hear the latest developments, discuss policy or technical issues on radio, television and new media, and gather insights into trends and forecasts.

It's a chance to join conversations with a range of experts on hot topics including:

- the future of digital services: digital terrestrial multichannelling, return channels, digital personal video recorders and metadata, digital radio, and the convergence with telephony
- present circumstances and industry plans in the UK and USA
- where media spend is moving
- regional and remote broadcasting and
- future regulatory issues.

The ABA's conferences have achieved a reputation for up-to-date policy and technical information, for frank and controversial discussions and

entertaining presentations.

Previous delegates have commented favourably on the chance for conversation and participation.

Some sessions in more detail:

Media spend

- What's happening to the advertising dollar?
- Are there shifts in advertising and revenue?
- What does the future look like for broadcasters, including free-to-air television networks?

Future regulatory issues

- Are spectrum charges fair?
- Is there a better way of charging for access?
- How could we encourage broadcasters to return analog spectrum after 2008?
- How do we make all this work?

Regional/remote broadcasting

- What are the issues facing regional and remote broadcasters?
- How does the situation look

from the perspective of those who deliver, provide, or receive these services?

Digital personal video recorders

- What difference will PVRs make?
- When will they become available?
- How easy are they to use?
- What kind of technical know-how do we need?

Digital radio

- Are mobile phones the radio of the future?
- What is the rest of the world doing with digital radio?

Digital terrestrial multichannelling

- What would happen to free-to-air television if a multichannelling environment were to be permitted?
- How many different ways are there to multichannel?
- What's happening in the UK with Freeview?

Return channels

- How do return channels work?
- Harris Broadcast Europe and Broadcast Australia demonstrate their equipment and explain.

The UK and USA

- Where are the UK and the USA up to with broadcasting?
- Where are they going next?

For more information about: registration, accommodation and flight information contact:

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