



News Update

For a copy of the variation to the Mt Gambier licence area plan go to the ABA web site at www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

In response to recent advice from the ABC that it would not be ready to commence operating the additional service in Mt Gambier until mid-2004, the ABA has decided to extend the time period within which 5GTR is required to change its operating frequency, until 31 December 2003.



Channels proposed for digital television services in remote and regional WA

The ABA has released proposals for the conversion of the existing commercial and national analog television services to digital television services in the remote and regional areas of Western Australia.

The areas include Albany, Broome, Carnarvon, Central Agricultural, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Manjimup, Narrogin, Northam, Port Hedland, Southern Agricultural and Wagin. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting in these areas.

In addition the ABA has identified a further channel in each of the abovementioned markets to be reserved for a third commercial television service to operate in digital mode.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft digital channel plans for Western Australia: Part 2 – Remote and Regional (WA: Part 2), released on 8 November.



Conference reports:

CBAA

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia conference this year combined two

conferences in one. The youth conference 'Speak Up! 2002' on 7 November brought together a large number of enthusiastic young radio volunteers, some of whom stayed to contribute to the three-day conference, 'Connecting Communities'.

There was strong ABA representation at the conference, including General Manager Giles Tanner, which took the opportunity to discuss the issues that are facing the sector. Highlights of the conference included workshops discussing the future of community television, which now sees the allocation of permanent licences with the recent passing of new community television legislation; the launch of the new Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice; the launch of a Griffith University Research report on community broadcasting; and, for the second year, the ABA sponsored the 'Academic Stream' workshop.

The papers from the conference will be available shortly on the CBAA website www.cbaa.org.au

National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Conference

This conference, in Adelaide from 14–17 November, took the theme 'Access & Generational Change' and focused on community radio participation for young people and emerging communities; training and funding for broadcasters; skills development in areas like broadcast law, outside broadcasts, training, funding sources, station operation and lobbying.

At the conference the CBAA introduced the new Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice, which were discussed with interest by the conference delegates.



Temporary community broadcasting licences

allocated from 19 October to 18 November 2002

Area served	Licensee	Frequency (MHz)	Period	Date allocated
New South Wales				
Blacktown	Blacktown City Community Radio SWR-FM Association Inc.	100.9	1-12-2002 to 28 2-2003	15-11-2002
Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island Radio Association Inc.	100.1	22-10-2002 to 21-10-2003	21-10-2002
Queensland				
Yarraman	Yarraman and Districts Historical Society	99.9	7-11-2002 to 6-11-2003	6-11-2002
South Australia				
Cooper Pedy	Dusty Radio Inc.	104.5	1-12-2002 to 30-11-2003	15-11-2002
Western Australia				
Harvey	Harvey Mainstreet Inc.	96.5	1-12-2002 to 31-1-2003	13-11-2002