



The ABA has decided to make an additional high-power community radio service available to serve the wider Sydney region, operating on 1386 kHz on the AM band.

New community AM radio service for Sydney

The ABA has decided to make an additional community radio service available in Sydney. The high power service, to operate on 1386 kHz on the AM band, is to serve the wider Sydney region.

The ABA has made the new service available by varying the Sydney radio licence area plan to change the category of service of the AM frequency 1386 kHz from open narrowcasting to community.

'The ABA received a number of submissions both for and against the variation to the Sydney licence area plan,' said Professor Flint. 'Having considered the information and opinions expressed, the ABA believes that making the frequency available for a community radio service is the best decision in the public interest as the need for another community radio service was considered by the ABA to be greater than the need for another open narrowcasting service. Unfortunately, this does mean that there will be one less open narrowcasting service available in Sydney.'

The ABA has conducted an

extensive investigation into the suitability of existing transmitter sites that could accommodate an additional AM service in Sydney and is of the view that a nominal site in the Homebush Bay area is the most appropriate, at a maximum CMF of 600 V (3 kW) within an omni-directional pattern.

Background

The ABA determined the Sydney licence area plan in December 1999. At that time, in addition to the national and commercial radio services planned, the ABA determined that three additional wide coverage community radio services be made available in Sydney. The services are to operate on 92.1 MHz with a maximum ERP of 15 kW, 93.7 MHz with a maximum ERP of 50 kW and 94.5 MHz with a maximum ERP of 150 kW, all from the nominal site at Artarmon.

The ABA also determined that three additional open narrowcasting radio services be made available in the Sydney region. These services are to operate on 1386 kHz from

Homebush with a maximum CMF of 1.015 kV (5 kW), 1539 kHz from Bicentennial Park, Concord West with a maximum CMF of 385 V (1 kW) and 1476 kHz from Emu Plains 5km NW of Penrith with a maximum CMF of 220 V (500 W).

In May 2001, the ABA formed a preliminary view, that a further additional wide coverage community radio service should be made available in Sydney using the MF-AM band of the radiofrequency spectrum. The reasons for the ABA's view are contained in its May 2001 discussion paper, available on the ABA website.

In December 2001, The ABA identified two potentially suitable alternative sites that could accommodate an additional AM service in Sydney.

The two options were:

Option 1

The proposed new service operating from Bicentennial Park, Homebush, on 1386 kHz (maximum CMF of 955 V [5 kW]) with an OD pattern.

Option 2

The proposed new service operating from Prospect, on 1386 kHz (maximum CMF of 1.015 kV [5 kW]) with a DA pattern.

To operate the service from a location other than the specified nominal transmitter site, compliance with *Part 2—Change of Transmitter Site Procedure* of the ABA's *Technical Planning Guidelines* will be required by the successful licensee.



A copy of the licence area plan variation is available from the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.