



**The ABA released details of new television services during December 2001, including second commercial TV services for Mount Gambier and the Riverland regions of SA and digital datacasting licences for the Nine Network .**

## New television services...

### Second commercial TV services in SA

The ABA released details of channels to be used for second commercial television services in Mount Gambier/South East and the Riverland areas of South Australia during December 2001.

'WIN Corporation Pty Limited, operator of the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East television services, has applied for second television licences in both areas,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

Amendments to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* have streamlined the process for the allocation of a second commercial television licence to existing licensees in television markets where there is only one commercial operator. Accordingly, the ABA is pleased to release variations to the television licence area plans for these two areas to include spectrum for second commercial television services.

UHF channels 41 at South East, 55 at Bordertown, 48 at Keith, 62 at Kingston SE/Robe and 63 at Naracoorte will be made available for the second commercial television service

in the Mt Gambier/South East region.

UHF channels 34 at Renmark/Loxton, 63 at Lameroo, 62 at Pinnaroo and 62 at Waikerie will be made available for the second commercial television service in the Riverland region.

The licensees of the Spencer Gulf and Broken Hill services have also applied for a second licence, however, the ABA is still considering submissions on technical issues and plans to consult further on revised proposals. It is expected that finalisation of the channels to be used for the Spencer Gulf and Broken Hill areas will occur early in 2002.

The variations to the licence area plans for the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East Region are available on the ABA website [www.aba.gov.au/tv/analog/planning/laps.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/tv/analog/planning/laps.htm) or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

### Digital datacasting licences for Nine Network

The ABA has allocated datacasting licences to the Nine Network television services in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The licences were allocated to TCN Channel Nine Pty Ltd (Sydney), General Television Corporation Pty Limited (Melbourne) and Queensland Television Limited (Brisbane).

Nine has described the nature and content of the proposed datacasting services as, 'Enhancement of Nine's broadcasting service which is a datacasting service by virtue of the fact that it is not contemporaneous with the program to which it relates. New services may include an expansion of the existing EPG, and information services.'

'The proposed services will add value to the digital television services provided by Nine in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

Datacasting services can include electronic program guides, Internet content, electronic mail, information services, educational programs,

interactive computer games, text or still images, and advertising or sponsorship material.

'The ABA expects that the appeal and value of digital television services generally will be further enhanced as new datacasting services start to become available over the next year or so through digital television receivers and set-top boxes,' Professor Flint said.

To contact the Nine Network, please call Creina Chapman, Manager Regulatory & Corporate Affairs, on (02) 9965 2109.

