



Another TV black spot milestone

The November 2001 edition of *ABA Update* contained details of the first key milestone reached by the ABA in its work in assisting with the delivery of improved television reception for identified 'black spot' communities throughout Australia.

A black spot is an area of poor or non-existent television reception from the potentially available local commercial and national television services.

The first milestone related to work associated with the first round of expressions of interest (EOIs). This first round was for black spot areas of 100 households or more.

The ABA has now reached a second key milestone with round two EOIs (areas with 50 or more households) by agreeing to planning options and proposals. This has ensured proposals for the transmission of commercial and national television services can proceed.

To this point, the ABA has agreed to options that provide spectrum for 818 retransmission services under the first and second round of the Television Black Spots Program (TVBSP). This figure equates to planning for 269 EOIs.

As with the first milestone, a significant feature was the fact that there was little effect on the

ABA's timetable for the production and delivery of television digital channel plans.

The Commonwealth Government's \$35 million TVBSP has been funded by proceeds from the second partial sale of Telstra. The program aims to eradicate between 200 and 250 identified black spot reception areas. In addition, there is a replacement of obsolete equipment component to the program.

The ABA will continue to work closely with the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) by providing engineering advice on spectrum availability and ensuring that licensing arrangements are completed for the remaining 21 applications. In the case of each of these applications, outstanding issues with coordinating bodies and associated planning have resulted in an inability to finalise applications.

Under round one, 175 EOIs for new services were lodged with DCITA from various coordinating bodies seeking assistance under the program to rectify blackspot reception areas. At the time of preparation of this article, planning for 5 EOIs remain outstanding.

Under round two, there were 237 EOIs to be considered. At the time of preparation of this article, planning for 16 remains outstanding.

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Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated 23 April to 26 May 2002

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
NSW				
Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour Christian Broadcasters Inc.	94.1	01-5-2002 to 31-7-2002	24-4-2002
QLD				
Blackwater	Blackwater Community Broadcasters Association Inc.	92.7	26-5-2002 to 31-1-2003	26-5-2002
Moranbah	Rock FM Association Inc.	96.9	01-5-2002 to 30-4-2003	01-5-2002
SA				
Adelaide	Fresh Broadcasters Inc.	92.7	01-6-2002 to 30-9-2002	16-5-2002
Adelaide	Music Broadcasting Society of South Australia Inc.	92.7	01-6-2002 to 30-9-2002	17-5-2002
Adelaide	Radio Televisione Italiana (SA) Inc.	92.7	01-6-2002 to 30-9-2002	16-5-2002
Port Adelaide	Way Out West Broadcasters Inc.	100.5	01-6-2002 to 31-10-2002	16-5-2002
TAS				
Northern Midlands	Northern Midlands Community Broadcasters Inc.	95.7	01-5-2002 to 30-4-2003	24-4-2002
WA				
Perth	Youth Media Society of Western Australia Inc.	101.7	01-5-2002 to 28-2-2003	24-4-2002



News Update

C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 23 March and 22 May 2002. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA's Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.

Program title	Origin	Class	New/renewal	Decision dated	Applicant
GUINEVERE JONES (EPISODES 1 TO 13)	Australia	CD	new	3/5/2002	Crawford Productions Pty Ltd
HILDEGARDE	Australia	CD	new	26/4/2002	Nice Pictures
WORST BEST FRIENDS	Australia	CD	new	4/4/2002	CoxKnight Productions Pty Ltd

C – children's program, CD – C Australian drama program, P – preschool program, Class. – Classification

To date, the ABA has issued over 170 licences for the retransmission of services and in excess of 200 licences under the replacement of obsolete equipment aspect of the program.

Finally, areas where no analog retransmission solution is available are considered to fall within the scope of the alternative technical solutions initiative, which was announced as an election commitment in *Broadcasting for the 21st Century* and formalised in the Budget for 2002 - 2003. In

excess of 30 EOIs are considered to fall within this category.

The map below identifies the areas of Australia from where applications were lodged for either new services or the replacement of obsolete equipment under the TVBSP.

