



ABA decides not to allocate community radio licence in Blacktown

The ABA has decided not to allocate a community radio broadcasting licence in Blacktown at this time.

The ABA sought applications for the licence in February 2000. Three groups applied, Blacktown City Community Radio SWR-FM Association Incorporated (SWR-FM), Voice of Charity Limited, and Western Community-Radio Association Incorporated (West FM). Both SWR-FM and West FM claim to serve the general community of the Blacktown licence area while Voice of Charity claim to serve the Christian community.

'After giving careful consideration to the criteria laid down in the legislation and the information provided by all applicants, the ABA has decided in this case not to allocate the licence,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'The ABA finds that none of the applicants were able to satisfy the ABA that they could provide a broadcasting service that would adequately serve the particular demographics of the Blacktown licence area. The ABA encourages the applicants to work together to create an open and well managed coalition that would accommodate both the high number of young people and the vibrant

ethnic community in the licence area,' said Professor Flint.

'At some time in the future the matter can be reconsidered and then the licence can be readvertised. During the intervening period it may be that cooperative arrangements can be formed between the groups,' he said.

Until such time as the ABA reviews the temporary licence services and reconsiders a permanent allocation, the channel set aside for this licence (99.9 MHz) will continue to be made available for temporary community broadcasting. All groups will be able to broadcast under temporary community broadcasting licences, sharing the one frequency.

The Blacktown licence area contains almost twice the population of Blacktown itself, and includes parts of Fairfield as well as Eastern Creek, Edensor Park, Horsley Park, Plumpton and Riverstone. At Census 1996 the licence area population was 494,474.

ABC and SBS television and the three commercial television services broadcast in the Blacktown licence area. Radio services include the all the ABC AM and FM services, SBS services 2SBS FM and 2EA, all the Sydney-wide commercial radio services and five Sydney-wide community radio services, 2CBA, 2SER, 2MBS, 2RPH and 2000 FM.



Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in November 2001

<i>Area served</i>	<i>Licensee</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date allocated</i>
NSW				
Byron Bay	Bay FM Community Radio Inc.	99.9	20-6-2001 to 19-6-2002	27-11-2001
Gosford	Central Coast Broadcasters Ltd	94.1	01-12-2001 to 30-6-2002	14-11-2001
Gosford	Five-O-Plus Public Radio Association Inc.	95.3	01-12-2001 to 30-6-2002	14-11-2001
Gosford	Newcastle Christian Broadcasters Ltd	94.9	26-11-2001 to 30-6-2002	07-11-2001
Gosford	Radio Yesteryear Inc.	104.5	01-12-2001 to 30-6-2002	14-11-2001
Gosford	Wyong-Gosford Progressive Community Radio Inc.	93.3	01-12-2001 to 30-6-2002	19-11-2001
Qld				
Cairns	Smithfield Community Radio Association Inc.	101.9	01-12-2001 to 30-11-2002	26-11-2001
SA				
Cooper Pedy	Dusty Radio Inc.	104.5	01-12-2001 to 30-11-2002	14-11-2001
Mt Gambier	South East Christian Broadcasters Inc.	99.9	01-12-2001 to 31-3-2002	23-11-2001
Tas				
Northern Midlands	Northern Midlands Community Broadcasters Inc.	95.7	30-11-2001 to 30-4-2002	19-11-2001
Vic				
Melbourne	Central Melbourne FM Inc.	94.9	19-11-2001 to 16-12-2001	07-11-2001
WA				
Perth	Capital Community Radio Inc.	101.7	01-12-2001 to 28-2-2002	08-11-2001