



Changes to commercial radio services in north west Western Australia

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has amended the licence areas of a number of commercial radio services in north west Western Australia, to enable the operator to provide more appropriate services to communities in the region.

The ABA has excised the towns of Paraburdoo and Tom Price from the Karratha licence area and include them in the Remote Western Australia licence area. The ABA has also moved Broome from the Remote Western Australia licence area to the Port Hedland licence area.

In addition the ABA has added Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands to the Remote Western Australia licence area. These territories were not previously included in any commercial radio licence area. This inclusion will enable the delivery of commercial radio services to these communities.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its variation to the licence area plans for Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Commercial Radio Western Zone.

Redwave Media Ltd operates all the commercial radio services in the Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Western Australia licence areas. These

services are 6KA Karratha, 6RED Karratha, 6NW Port Hedland, 6HED Port Hedland, 6FMS Remote Western Australia and 6SAT Western Australia.

"The ABA has taken into account the views of those who made submissions before deciding on the most beneficial mix of radio services for communities in the North West of Western Australia," said Professor Flint, ABA Chairman.

The licence area plans for Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Commercial Radio Western Zone can be viewed on the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/wa or by calling the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241.

The ABA determined the Karratha and Port Hedland radio licence area plans in June 1996 and the Remote Western Australia radio licence area plan in August 1996.

In determining the Karratha licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for the existing Karratha commercial radio service 6KA to operate on AM 1260 kHz. Channel capacity was also made available for local coverage transmitters for the 6KA service at Tom Price and Paraburdoo on 765 kHz. In addition, the ABA

made channel capacity available for 6KA to operate under s.39 of the Act, a second commercial radio service (6RED) at Karratha on 106.5 MHz. Channel capacity was also made available for local coverage transmitters for the 6RED service at Tom Price and Paraburdoo on 105.7 MHz and 101.3 MHz respectively.

In determining the Port Hedland licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for the existing Port Hedland commercial radio service 6NW to operate on AM 1026 kHz. The ABA also made channel capacity available for 6NW to operate under s.39 of the Act, a second commercial radio service (6HED) on 91.7 MHz.

In determining the Remote Western Australia licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity for the existing remote commercial radio services 6FMS and 6SAT throughout remote WA including Broome. In October 2001, the ABA varied the Remote Western Australia licence area plan to include the town of Exmouth, which was excised from the Carnarvon licence area.

In October 2002, Redwave Media Ltd submitted a request to the ABA to have Broome excised from the Remote West-

ern Australia licence area plan and included in the Port Hedland licence area plan and also to excise Tom Price and Paraburdoo from the Karratha licence area plan and have them placed in the Remote Western Australia licence area. Redwave Media Ltd said that the proposed changes would provide residents in these areas with programming more suited to their needs.

