



New community radio licences for Blacktown, Sydney, and Warragul and Horsham, Victoria

The ABA has allocated three new community radio licences. These community licences have been made available following the completion of the relevant radio licence area plans and allocated after community consultation during both the licence area planning and allocation processes.

All successful applicants satisfied the ABA that they would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community in their respective licence areas.

Blacktown

The successful applicant for the Blacktown licence area in Sydney, Blacktown City Community Radio SWR Association Incorporated (SWR FM), will provide a service on 99.9 MHz on the FM band.

There were two applicants for the Blacktown licence: SWR FM and Western Community Radio Association Incorporated (West FM). Both applicants proposed providing a general service, although West FM had a focus on multilingual broadcasting and youth.

'SWR demonstrated a clear commitment to meet the many and varied needs of the community within the Blacktown licence area and it has also committed to keeping abreast of changing needs,' said Professor Flint.

The Blacktown licence was previously advertised in February 2001 but the ABA decided, after a thorough assessment, not to allocate the licence at that time.

The Blacktown RA1 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 2001 the licence area population was 524 060.

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

Horsham

The successful (and only) applicant for the Horsham service, Horsham and District Community FM Radio (3HHH), will broadcast on 96.5 MHz on the FM band from 1 September.

The application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in the Horsham area.

The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Horsham.

The Horsham area is currently served by two national radio services: 3ABC FM and 3JJJ FM; and two commercial radio services: 3WM and 3WWM. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and three commercial television services: VTV51, AMV54 and BCV57.

Warragul

The successful applicant for the Warragul service, Warragul to West Gippsland Community

Radio Inc. (3BBR), will broadcast on 103.1 MHz on the FM band from 1 September.

3BBR was the only applicant for the Warragul licence. Their application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in the Warragul area.

The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Warragul.

The Warragul area is currently served by three national radio services: 3GLR FM, 3ABC FM and 3JJJ FM; and two commercial radio services: 3SEA and 3GG. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and three commercial television services: GLV37, VTV43 and AMV46.

In December 2001, the ABA finalised the Horsham and Warragul licence area plans. The ABA determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Horsham and one for Warragul.

