



Changes to commercial radio services available in Innisfail, Qld

The ABA has decided to change the technical specifications of the commercial radio services in the Innisfail licence area to enable the licensee to provide a greater level of coverage within the licence area.

The ABA has also made channel capacity available on 92.7 MHz for an open narrowcasting service in Tully. This frequency will be made available via auction in the first half of 2004.

The ABA has made channel capacity available for the existing commercial radio 4KZ service to operate in Tully on AM 693 kHz, Cardwell on FM 94.7 MHz with an increase in operating power to 300 W, Murray Falls on FM 92.3 MHz and Hinchinbrook on FM 97.7 MHz. In addition, the ABA has made channel capacity available for the existing FM commercial radio service 4ZKZ to operate in Murray Falls on 93.1 MHz, Hinchinbrook on 96.1 MHz and East Palmerston on 103.3 MHz.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its variation to the licence area plan for Innisfail on 4 August 2003.

'The ABA has taken into account the views of those who made submissions before deciding on most appropriate

technical specifications for the radio services in the Innisfail region,' said Professor Flint.

Innisfail

The ABA determined the Innisfail licence area plan in November 1997.

Prior to the licence area plan, the existing commercial radio service 4KZ operated an AM translator at Tully on 693 kHz. In determining the licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for 4KZ to switch to an FM channel on 94.7 MHz to replace the AM frequency. This change was made following a request by 4KZ to overcome interference to the AM service. The AM frequency that was to be vacated by 4KZ was made available for an open narrowcasting service at Tully. In addition, the ABA made channel capacity available for 4KZ to operate an FM translator at Cardwell on 92.7 MHz.

In March 2003, following a submission from the licensee, the ABA released a draft variation to the licence area plan for Innisfail. The draft variation contained a proposal to change the category of service of 693 kHz, determined in the licence

area plan, from an open narrowcasting service, back to the commercial radio service 4KZ at Tully. In addition, the draft proposed to make channel capacity available for the existing commercial radio service 4KZ to operate on 94.7 MHz at Cardwell and channel capacity be made available for an open narrowcasting service to operate on 92.7 MHz at Tully.

Following the release of the March 2003 draft variation, the ABA received a further submission from Coastal Broadcasters Pty Ltd, licensee of the commercial radio services in Innisfail, 4KZ and 4ZKZ, requesting additional frequencies to be able to cover deficient areas within the licence area at Murray Falls and south of Cardwell. Coastal Broadcasters is currently licensed to operate a retransmission of its 4ZKZ at East Palmerston. The ABA has decided to incorporate these services into the Innisfail licence area plan.

Licence area plans

The licence area plans for Innisfail can be viewed on the ABA's web site: www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/qld/innisfail/index.htm or tel: Freecall 1800 810 241.

TV licence area plans for northern NSW and regional Queensland

The ABA has determined licence area plans for analog television services in Northern New South Wales and Regional Queensland. The plans set out the number and characteristics of television services made available in these areas.

The licence area plans:

- designate the licence areas for each of the television services, and
- confirm the technical parameters of each of the existing analog television services.

The licence area plans for Northern New South Wales and Regional Queensland include alternative channels in a number of locations for services that may need to change channels to accommodate digital television services. The Northern New South Wales licence area plan also affirms a Ministerial notification for a community television service in Lismore.

Television licence area plans analog television services in Northern New South Wales and Regional Queensland.

Copies of these documents can be obtained from the ABA tel: Freecall 1800 810 241 or go the ABA's web site: www.aba.gov.au