



News Update

inception before the introduction of digital television in 2001.

The scheme provides a telephone hotline as well as brochures for viewers dealing with the specifics of the area and how to overcome potential problems. This is coupled with an extensive on-air and press campaign and mail-out to ensure as many as possible are aware of the introduction of digital television and how to deal with many of the concerns that may be faced by viewers in the respective areas.

Complementing the interference management scheme has been the co-ordinated introduction of digital services in many areas. This has provided broadcasters and viewers alike to assess the impact and deal with any issues that may arise.

As a consequence of the adoption of the approaches identified above the number of issues and difficulties caused to the viewing population have been well below potential estimates. Copies of relevant brochures can be downloaded from the www.aba.gov.au or

www.dba.org.au. Brochures are also available from all broadcaster web sites.

What about the take up of set-top boxes?

Digital Broadcasting Australia, the industry body associated with the introduction of digital television, estimates that there are now up to 145 000 homes with digital receivers.

It is generally accepted that a number of factors have contributed to the upward trend. The factors include: a greater awareness of the benefits of digital television; a greater range of set top boxes available in the market-place (more than 20 models) with prices starting at \$299 for SD-STBs and \$799 for HD-STBs; and finally the growing popularity of the improved viewing provided by widescreen televisions.

DBA reports that sales of wide-screen television sets has reached 250 000. This number is expected to increase with the peak sales period approaching coupled with the news that the Rugby World Cup is to be televised in wide-screen format.



Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated from 26 August to 24 September 2003.

<i>Area served</i>	<i>Licensee</i>	<i>Frequency (MHz)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date allocated</i>
New South Wales				
Gosford RA1	Wyong – Gosford Progressive Community Radio Inc.	94.9	1–10–2003 to 31–12–2003	10–9–2003
Dunedoo RA1	Talbragar Broadcasters Inc.	101.5	1–11–2003 to 31–10–2004	24–9–2003
Murwillumbah RA2	Heartland Opry Group Inc.	101.3	1–11–2003 to 31–1–2004	24–9–2003
Victoria				
Latrobe Valley RA2	Gippsland Christian Broadcasters Inc.	103.9	1–10–2003 to 30–9–2004	29–8–2003
Swan Hill RA2	Swan Hill And District Community FM Radio Inc	99.1	19–9–2003 to 18–9–2004	29–8–2003
Queensland				
Bundaberg RA1	Bundaberg Breeze Community Broadcasting Association Inc.	96.3	10–9–2003 to 9–03–2004	3–9–2003
Mossman RA2	4CCC Coral Coast Country Community Radio Inc.	100.1	1–11–2003 to 31–1–2004	23–9–2003
Western Australia				
Perth RA1	Western Sports Media Inc.	90.5	17–10–2003 to 8–2–2004	18–9–2003
Cocos Islands RA1	VKW 'Voice of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands' Inc.	96.0 & 105.3	1–9–2003 to 30–04–2004	30–8–2003

