



reject a trial proposal or suggest a different location or duration for the trial.

When making applications proposed trialists must clearly state the purpose of the trial and link that purpose to the tenure, location and bandwidth sought in the application.

Length of trials

To underline the temporary nature of trials and maximise the opportunities for participation in trials of digital radio and any other system, trials will be restricted to the maximum length required for the purposes of the trial and in any case will not exceed an initial maximum period of 18 months. An application for continuation of a trial beyond 18 months would only be considered if this is justified by the purpose of the trial. In considering whether to extend a trial beyond 18 months, the ABA may

have also regard to other requests to conduct trials or tests in an area. Before approving an extension beyond 18 months the ABA will invite other expressions of interest in using the spectrum in question. The ABA will require all trial participants to sign a statement acknowledging that they understand and accept the temporary nature of trials as set out in the introduction to this policy framework, including the maximum period before which fresh expressions of interest would be invited.

Where appropriate, the ABA will also require that trial broadcasters inform consumers and trial participants of the digital radio trial policy and the temporary nature of the digital radio transmissions. In part this is to ensure that the expectation of consumers is not falsely raised as a consequence of a trial process.



New community radio licence for Blackwater, Qld

The successful applicant, Blackwater Community Broadcasters Association Incorporated (BCBA), will provide a service on 92.7 MHz on the FM band.

The ABA invited applications for this licence in March 2003, and BCBA was the only applicant. BCBA is proposing to provide a general service.

'BCBA demonstrated a clear commitment to meet the needs and interests of the community within the Blackwater licence area and it has also committed to keeping abreast of changing needs,' said Professor Flint.

This community licence was made available following the variation of the Emerald radio

licence area plan in September 2002. One community radio licence was made available to serve the Blackwater RA1 licence area.

Blackwater

At Census 2001, the Blackwater RA1 licence area population was 5889.

ABC and SBS television and three commercial television services broadcast in the Blackwater licence area. National radio services include ABC Regional Radio, ABC Radio National and 4JJJ. The three commercial radio services available are 4HIT, 4HI (both general) and Radio TAB (horse and greyhound racing).

