

**Closing date**

5.00pm, Friday 5 December 2003.

For copies:

of the revised explanatory paper and draft variation to the Goulburn licence area plan go to the ABA web site:

www.aba.gov.au/radio/

or tel :

Freecall 1800 226 667.

the ABA has received requests for a variation to this licence area plan.

The populations of the Goulburn commercial and community radio licence areas, were initially determined using 1996 Census figures. It is proposed that the licence areas now be redefined using 2001 Census figures.

Changes to radio services in Cootamundra and Cowra proposed

The ABA has released proposals to make changes to existing radio services in the Young region. The ABA is proposing to make changes to the technical specifications of the 2LFF translator services in Cowra and Cootamundra.

The towns of Cowra and Cootamundra have poor radio reception and funding has been made available to 2LFF under the Federal Government's Radio Black Spots Program to improve reception in the areas.

The proposals are contained in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the licence area plan.

'The planned changes to the 2LFF translator services are anticipated to improve the coverage of the service in the region,' said Professor Flint.

Before reaching a final decision, the ABA is interested in receiving comments on its proposals.

DMG is the licensee of the two commercial radio services operating in Young. The original licence area plan specification for the Cowra translator service located the transmitter at Cowra TAFE College. DMG's preference is to operate the service at Bellevue Hill Lookout. Broadcast engineering assessments undertaken by the ABA indicate that the service can operate at the alternate site, with an increase in its antenna height and mixed polarisation.

The ABA proposes that the Cootamundra translator service increase its maximum ERP from 50 W to 100 W, increase its antenna height from 10 m to 15 m and operate with mixed polarisation, to improve the coverage of the service to the Cootamundra area.

The proposed technical specifications will provide good signal coverage to the townships of Cowra and Cootamundra.

When the ABA determined the Young licence area plan in December 2001 it made channel capacity available for two commercial radio services (2LF on 1350 kHz and 2LFF on 93.8 MHz) and additional channel capacity available for 2LFF to operate translator services in Cootamundra and Cowra.

Further details sought on proposed Sydney radio joint venture

After the announcement of the proposed joint venture between Southern Cross Broadcasting and Macquarie Radio Network announced on 26 November, the ABA sought further details. The joint venture company was to provide certain services and facilities to Sydney commercial radio stations 2UE, 2CH and 2GB.

The ABA was particularly interested in how the arrangements might affect the provision of news and advertising services on the radio stations concerned.

The ABA wished to be satisfied that the proposed joint venture complied with the control rules in the Broadcasting Services Act, in particular the rule that restricts a person to being in a position to exercise control over no more than two commercial radio stations in the same licence area.

On 4 December, Southern Cross Broadcasting and Macquarie Radio Network announced that the proposed joint venture would not proceed.

The ABA is interested in receiving comments on its proposals.

Submissions closing date

5 pm, Friday 19 December 2003.

For copies:

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the Young licence area plan are on the ABA web site:

www.aba.gov.au

or tel:

Freecall 1800 226 667.

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated from 23 October to 20 November 2003

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
New South Wales				
Gosford RA1	Gosford Christian Broadcasters Ltd	94.9 MHz	1-1-2004 to 31-3-2004	10-11-2003
Tasmania				
George Town RA1	Tamar FM (Inc)	95.3 MHz	29-11-2003 to 28-11-2004	10-11-2003