



Brisbane AM station, 4BH, fell over in August 2002, as a result of vandalism.

#### EMR levels

The levels of EMR at all broadcasting transmission sites are the responsibility of the relevant broadcasters and site owners. The aggregate powers of more than one service may exceed permitted levels, even though a single service does not. Site owners would need to be aware of the aggregate level of the radiation hazard.

The Sydney commercial AM radio broadcasters wrote to the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning in September 2001, expressing concern at not being asked to comment on the Olympic Park post-Olympic master plan, indicating the potential health and safety risks associated with the proposed developments and noting the impact on possible day/night switching power increases. In February 2002 2UE wrote to the ABA, reiterating these concerns, and the ABA met with the ACA, with the ACA agreeing to coordinate responses on this issue.

The ACA is the Commonwealth agency responsible, under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, for regulating electromagnetic compatibility and human health exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic energy from radio transmitters.

The ACA wrote to the Sydney Olympic Park Authority in April 2002, expressing concern at the proximity of new residential developments to high electromagnetic fields existing in the vicinity of Homebush Bay AM transmission facilities. The ACA

was concerned at the potential for substantial interference to electrical and electronic devices that may cause malfunction of equipment and the possibility of health exposure implications. The Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Planning NSW first met with the ACA, ABA and the broadcasters in June 2002 to discuss the issue and have met with the stakeholders periodically since that time.

The ACA expects to mandate new transmitter licence conditions specifying a new radiation protection standard for electromagnetic radiation on 1 March 2003. Compliance by broadcasters with the existing EMR standard is only advisory.

The ABA is the Commonwealth agency responsible for the planning of radio services. The ABA will assess any new siting proposals and related changes to technical operating conditions of AM services in Sydney.

#### Day/night switching

Under the ABA's day/night switching guidelines, AM broadcasters can seek increases in transmission power to improve reception and coverage within their licence area. Two of the broadcasters at Homebush, 2CH and 2GB, have sought to increase their power. Such daytime power increases are subject to agreement with the ABA and 18-month trial periods. However, the trial power increases for Homebush have been put on hold until this issue is resolved. AM broadcasters elsewhere in Australia are also seeking to trial daytime power increases.



**After consultation with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their areas, the ABA has allocated new community radio licences in Port Hedland and Break O'Day.**

## New community radio licences for ...

#### Port Hedland, WA

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for Port Hedland in Western Australia to Port Hedland Indigenous Media Aboriginal Corporation (PHIMAC).

The service will broadcast on 101.3 MHz on the FM band. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 March 2003.

The ABA made this licence available after a process of consultation with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

PHIMAC was the only applicant for the licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the indigenous community in the Port Hedland area.

PHIMAC's proposed service will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide programs that will cover a wide

range of local issues, in addition to news, information and entertainment that appeals to the indigenous community throughout the Port Hedland licence area.

#### Break O'Day, Tasmania

The new community radio licence for Break O'Day in north-eastern Tasmania has been allocated to BOD FM Inc. which will broadcast on 93.7 MHz (St Helens) and 100.3 MHz (St Marys) on the FM band.

The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 March 2003.

BOD FM was the only applicant for the licence. BOD FM's service will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues, in addition to news, information and entertainment that appeals to the different community groups throughout the Break O'Day licence area.

