



### **ABA decides not to allocate a new community radio licence in Sydney**

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has decided not to allocate a new community radio broadcasting licence in Sydney at this time. The service would have operated on the AM band (1386kHz) and had been expected to transmit from Homebush.

The ABA received eight applications for the Sydney licence. The applicants were 2AMB – Australian Muslim Broadcasting Radio Inc, Australian-Arabic Unity Inc, Hellenic Australian Radio Inc, Islamic Council of New South Wales Inc, Outfm Inc, Radio Tarana Australian Pty Ltd, Sydney Christian Broadcasters Ltd and Sydney Harbour Radio Inc.

“After giving careful consideration to the criteria laid down in the legislation and the information provided by the applicants, the ABA has decided in this case not to allocate the licence,” said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The criteria the ABA had regard to included the existing and perceived future needs of the community, the nature and diversity of interests of that community and the capacity of the applicants to provide the proposed service. In relation to the matter of financial capacity, the ABA noted how much more expensive and difficult setting up AM services is compared to FM services.

The ABA also decided not to make the frequency available for other broadcasting purposes, such as temporary community broadcasting licences, at this time, in light of concerns about the proximity of new residential developments to AM transmission towers in the Homebush area. The ABA will review the situation in 12 months.



### **ABA proposes changes to radio services in the Innisfail licence area**

The Australian Broadcasting Authority is calling for submissions on its proposal to vary the radio licence area plan for Innisfail, Queensland. The ABA is proposing that the frequency 693 kHz, determined in the Innisfail licence area plan for an open narrowcasting service, be made available for the commercial radio service 4KZ at Tully. The ABA is proposing to make 92.7 MHz available for an open narrowcasting service at Tully.

The ABA is also proposing to make channel capacity available for 4KZ at Cardwell on 94.7 MHz with an increase in operating power to 300W.

“The draft variation follows representations from the licensee of the commercial radio service in Innisfail,” said Professor Flint, ABA Chairman. “Before reaching a final decision the ABA is interested in receiving comments on the proposals to make alternative technical specifications available to the commercial radio service, 4KZ, and an open narrowcasting service available in the Innisfail area,” said Professor Flint.

The ABA determined the Innisfail radio 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 a 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. However, the AM frequency has not been available for allocation as an open narrowcasting service as 4KZ is still operating on 693 kHz.



### **New ABA General Counsel: Jonquil Ritter**



Ms Jonquil Ritter will be the ABA's new General Counsel. She will take up the position from 12 May when the current General Counsel, Jacqueline Gleeson, leaves the ABA for a position as Senior Executive Lawyer in the Civil Regulation team in the Sydney office of the Australian Government Solicitor. Jonquil is currently the ABA's Director of Planning and Licensing and will continue to take responsibility for the ABA's Sydney-based Licensing team. The ABA will be advertising for a new Director Planning shortly. Greg Cupitt will be acting Director Planning from 12 May until 6 June then Fred Gengaroli will act in the position until 4 July. Both can be contacted on (02) 6256 2801. Jonquil Ritter can be contacted on (02) 9334 7833 from 12 May.