



Improved availability of commercial radio services in the remote north east zone licence area

The ABA has varied the radio licence area plan for the Remote North East Zone (RNEZ), to improve the availability of the commercial radio services 4RBL/4BRZ.

The ABA has made additional channel capacity available for 4RBL to operate at Inglewood and Texas and alternative technical specifications available for the service to operate at Childers/Gin Gin, Beaudesert, Stanthorpe, Canungra and Kilcoy.

The ABA has also made additional channel capacity available for 4BRZ to operate at Childers/Gin Gin, Inglewood, Texas and Kilcoy and alternative technical specifications available at Beaudesert and Canungra.

Additionally, the ABA has made channel capacity available for new community radio services in the Warrumbungle area of New South Wales (Coonamble, Coonabarabran and Gilgandra) Dunedoo NSW and Weipa, Queensland and channel capacity for an open narrowcast service in Inglewood, Queensland.

'Before deciding on the most effective solution for the RNEZ

commercial radio services to improve the availability of the service in some black spot areas, the ABA took into account the views of all who made submissions on both the draft and revised draft licence area plan variations which were released for public comment in July 2003 and October 2003, respectively,' said Professor Flint.

'Providing alternative technical specifications for some translator services and additional channel capacity for 4RBL and 4BRZ will ensure listeners in the RNEZ licence area receive an adequate reception of the service.'

'The ABA also believes that making channel capacity available for additional community radio services and an additional open narrowcast service, will give audiences in the RNEZ licence area access to a greater diversity of services,' said Professor David Flint, ABA chairman.

The Remote North East Zone

The ABA determined the Remote North East Zone licence



area plan in October 1996 and varied it in November 1998, December 2000, November 2001 and August 2002.

In January 2003 Commercial Radio Australia provided a submission to the Department of Communications Information

Technology and the Arts' Radio Black Spots Program that listed 30 areas in the Remote North East Zone licence area that are not receiving a service and have been identified as a high priority.

While technical specifications



have been determined in the Remote North East Zone licence area plan for the majority of the radio black spot areas, Rebel Radio Network Pty Ltd, the licensee of the remote commercial radio service, sought additional channel capacity for its existing service (4RBL) and for its second service (4BRZ).

RRN also requested changes to the technical operating conditions of some of its existing services in the black spots areas.

An explanatory paper and draft licence area plan variation were released in July 2003. The ABA proposed to make additional technical specifications available for 4RBL in Inglewood and Texas and alternative technical specifications available in Childers/Gin Gin, Beaudesert, Canungra and Kilcoy; additional technical specifications available for 4BRZ to operate at Childers/Gin Gin, Stanthorpe, Inglewood, Texas and Kilcoy and alternative technical specifications available at Beaudesert and Canungra and incorporate additional Collection Districts into the Remote North East Zone licence area.

After the release of the draft licence area plan variation, five submissions were received commenting on the technical specifications.

Based on submissions received, the ABA undertook further engineering work and an explanatory paper and a revised draft licence area plan variation were released in October 2003.

The revised draft proposed to make alternative technical specifications available for 4RBL in Inglewood, Texas and Stanthorpe and alternative technical

Table 1: Existing translator services and additional channel capacity for translator services for 4RBL

Status	General area served	Frequency	MAX ERP	Proposed location
Proposed	Childers/Gin Gin	106.7 MHz	500 W OD	BA site, Mt Goonaneman
Proposed	Inglewood	97.3 MHz	50 W OD	Optus site, Rabbit Hill
Proposed	Texas	94.5 MHz	50 W OD	Broadcast site, 3 km north east of Texas
Licensed	Canungra	93.7 MHz	50 W OD	Council Site Lahey's Lookout, Mt Tamborine, Canungra
Proposed	Kilcoy	100.5 MHz	100 W OD	Council seservoir site, Kilcoy
Licensed	Beaudesert	90.5 MHz	200 W OD	Broadcast site, Mt Dunsinane
Licensed	Stanthorpe	90.1 MHz	10 0 W OD	Broadcast site, Mt Marley

Table 2: Existing translator services and additional channel capacity for translator services for 4BRZ

Status	General area served	Frequency	Proposed MAX ERP	Proposed location
Proposed	Childers/Gin Gin	102.5 MHz	500 W OD	BA site Mt Goonaneman
Proposed	Inglewood	90.9 MHz	50 W OD	Optus site, Rabbit Hill
Proposed	Texas	91.3 MHz	50 W OD	Broadcast site, 3 km north east of Texas
Proposed	Kilcoy	102.9 MHz	100 W OD	Council Reservoir site, Kilcoy
Licensed	Canungra	92.9 MHz	50 W OD	Council Site Lahey's Lookout, Mt Tamborine Canungra
Licensed	Beaudesert	92.1 MHz	200 W OD	Broadcast Site, Mt Dunsinane

specifications for 4BRZ in Inglewood and Stanthorpe. Additionally, the revised draft proposed to make additional community radio services available in the Warrumbungle area of New South Wales (Coonamble, Coonabarabran and Gilgandra) Dunedoo NSW and Weipa, Queensland in order to meet the demands from aspirant community groups. An additional open narrowcasting service in Inglewood was also proposed.

After the release of the revised draft licence area plan

variation, seven submissions were received commenting on the 4RBL/4BRZ technical specifications and the proposals to make additional channel capacity available for community and open narrowcast services.

Refer to table 1 for a full list of additional technical specifications and changes to existing technical specifications for the Remote North East Zone commercial radio service.

Collection districts

Following the release of the

2001 Census data, the ABA updated all commercial licence areas to reflect changes in collection districts' boundaries. As a result of this update, the ABA identified a number of districts that did not fall within a commercial licence area.

The ABA now proposes to add three collection districts to the RNEZ licence area, which would increase the population of the service by 609 people and remove one collection district. This collection district does not contain a single populated centre.

