News Update

channels in the event of a need to cease operation on channels 3, 5 and 5A. The variation is also aimed at amending existing technical specifications to reflect current operating conditions and designating the licence area using 2001 census boundaries.

The closing date for submissions is 20 August 2004.

Comments should be sent:

- by email to lapvariation@aba.gov.au
- by fax to (02) 6253 3277
- or by mail to

Planning Officer Remote Western Australia Television licence area plan, ABA, PO Box 34, Belconnen ACT 2616

Changes proposed for radio services in Bourke, NSW

The ABA proposes to make FM channel capacity available for community radio service 2CUZ Bourke at Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Weilmoringle, all within the 2CUZ licence area; and remove channel capacity for an unallocated open narrowcasting service at Walgett. The proposed changes will have no impact on 2CUZ listeners as the licensee has applied for, and has been issued, licences to retransmit its service at the above four locations ahead of the formal change to the licence area plan.

The ABA also seeks submissions on a request from the licensee of community radio service 2WEB Bourke to extend its licence area to include Cunnamulla and Cobar.

'Following representations from the licensee of community radio service 2WEB that Cunnamulla does not have sufficient radio services that relate to the township, the ABA seeks comments on the request from 2WEB to extend its licence area to include Cunnamulla,' said Ms Maddock. 'In the case of Cobar, there is already a widepurpose community radio service.'

The proposals are contained in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the Bourke radio licence area plan. Submissions closed on 9 July 2004.

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the Bourke radio licence area plan is available from the ABA web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/index.htm or from the ABA, tel: 1800 226 667.

Proposed channels for digital TV services ...

in North Eastern Victoria

The ABA proposes to allot and assign digital channels for television repeater services at 10 locations in north east Victoria and southern New South Wales: Albury North, Bright, Corryong, Khancoban, Kiewa, Kiewa Valley, Myrtleford, Tawonga South, Walwa/Jingellic and Yackandandah. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

The discussion papers and draft varations to digital channel plans for Victoria: Part 2 – Regional Victoria (North Eastern Victoria) are available on the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/digitaltv/planning/index.htm or by from the ABA, tel: 1800 226 667.

The closing date for submissions is 5 pm, Friday 6 August 2004.

In mid north coast of Queensland

The ABA proposes to allot and assign digital channels for television repeater services at Airlie Beach, Ayr, Bowen, Bowen Town, Charters Towers, Collinsville, Proserpine, Shute Harbour and Stuart, Queensland. In addition, the ABA is proposing to vary the allotment of an unassigned channel at Townsville North.

The discussion paper and draft variation to digital channel plans for Queensland: Part 2 – Regional Queensland are on the ABA web site, www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/qld/index.htm

Submissions closed on 2 July 2004.

New on www.aba.gov.au

In addition to the news releases, listed on the ABA's home page www.aba.gov.au, and other items referred to in *ABA Update*, the following items have been added to the site:

7

- submissions regarding use of 1386khz in Sydney
- speeches and presentations at the ABA conference
- applications for Coober Pedy and Latrobe Valley community licences
- submissions and responses to Gosford community radio
- June 2004 edition of *Radio & TV Broadcasting Stations Book* (Internet edition)
- speeches by Giles Tanner
- commercial and community broadcasting licences
- May Internet content stats
- new special events checklist to accompany Form ABA 12

July 2004 33