



After the ABA consulted with the people of the local communities to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their areas, it has made the following community radio broadcasting licences available. Each of the successful applicants has satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community.

New community radio licences:

for Murwillumbah

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for the Murwillumbah licence area in NSW. The successful applicant, North Coast Broadcasters Ltd, will provide a service on 101.3 MHz on the FM band.

The ABA received applications for the Murwillumbah licence from NCB and Heartland Opry Group Inc. NCB was proposing to provide a country music and local sport service and Heartland Opry Group was proposing to provide a general community service.

'North Coast Broadcasters has demonstrated that it is dedicated to providing a comprehensive service targeting country music and sport,' said Ms Maddock.

This community licence was made available following the completion of the Murwillumbah radio licence area plan in December 2000.

The ABA has allocated this licence after community consultation during licence area planning and allocation proc-

esses. This licence was previously advertised in May 2002, however the ABA did not receive any applications for the licence at that time.

Murwillumbah

The Murwillumbah RA2 licence area includes the towns of Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Tumbulgum and Pottsville. At Census 2001 the licence area population was 76,176.

ABC and SBS television and the three commercial television services broadcast in the Murwillumbah licence area. Radio services include the national radio services ABC Regional Radio, ABC Classic FM, ABC Radio National and Triple J and the commercial radio service 2MW.

The ABA released a radio licence area plan for Murwillumbah in December 2000. One community radio licence was made available to serve the Murwillumbah RA2 licence area. ☒

Coober Pedy

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence in Coober Pedy, SA to Dusty Radio Inc.

The Coober Pedy service will broadcast on 104.5 MHz on the FM band. Dusty Radio Inc. is currently broadcasting on 104.5 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 31 August 2004. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 September 2004.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Coober Pedy area,' said Ms Maddock.

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.

DRI was the only applicant for the Coober Pedy licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Coober Pedy community. ☒

DRI currently operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Coober Pedy.

Coober Pedy

The Coober Pedy area is currently served by two national radio services: 5ABC RN and 5ABC RR; one commercial radio service: 8SAT; one community radio service: 8KIN; and one open narrowcasting radio service: SA TAB. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and two commercial television services: IMP and QQQ.

On 13 February 2004 the ABA finalised the radio licence area plan for Coober Pedy in SA. It determined that one new community broadcasting licence be made available to serve the Coober Pedy RA1 licence area.



Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Western Australia, to VKW 'Voice of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands' Incorporated (VKW).

The new service will broadcast on 96.0 MHz on the FM band from the West Island and 102.7 MHz from the Home Island. VKW's temporary community broadcasting licence expires on 14 August 2004 and the permanent radio broadcasting licence will commence on 15 August 2004.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands area,' said Ms Maddock.

VKW was the only applicant for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community.

VKW currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that

will appeal to the general community of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands area is currently served by one national radio service: ABCRN; and one commercial radio service: 6FMS. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and six commercial television services: GWN, WIN (both West and Home Islands) and four Indonesian/Malaysian language channels: Anteve, SCTV, TP1 and Indosair (Home Island).

The ABA finalised the Remote Western Australia radio licence area plan in August 1996. It determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Cocos (Keeling) Islands operating from the West Island. In March 2004, the ABA determined a variation to the Remote Western Australia licence area plan to make additional channel capacity available for the Cocos (Keeling) Island community radio service to operate from Home Island. ☒

Variation to digital channel plans for regional Queensland

The ABA has released a variation to the digital channel plans for Regional Queensland to include the allotment and assignment of digital channels for television repeater services at Airlie Beach, Ayr, Bowen, Bowen Town, Charters Towers, Collinsvale, Proserpine, Shute Harbour and Stuart. In addition, the ABA has varied the allotment of an unassigned channel at Townsville North.

The plans set out the channels the existing commercial and national television broadcasters will use for their digital transmissions. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

'In finalising these plans the ABA weighed up a number of important factors. These include the aim of spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers will have to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital broadcasts and the desirability of broadcasters being able to use their existing transmission facilities to broadcast their digital television services,' said Ms Maddock.

An explanatory paper, which discusses issues raised in submissions, and the variation to the digital channel plans is available on the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/qld/index.htm or from the ABA, tel: 1800 226 667. ☒