



New community radio licence for Latrobe Valley

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence in Latrobe Valley, Victoria to Gippsland Christian Broadcasters Inc. (Life FM).

The Latrobe Valley service will broadcast on 103.9 MHz on the FM band. Life FM is currently broadcasting on 103.9 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 30 September 2004. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 October 2004.

'The service adds to the range and diversity of services in the Latrobe Valley area,' said Michael Gordon-Smith, Acting ABA Chair. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community in the licence area.'

The ABA made this licence available after a process of consultation with the people of the local community.

Life FM was the only applicant for the Latrobe Valley licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard

to whether the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in the Latrobe Valley area.

Life FM currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that will appeal to the Christian community in Latrobe Valley.

Latrobe Valley RA2

The Latrobe Valley area is currently served by three national radio services: 3GLR, 3ABCFM and 3JJJ; two commercial radio services: 3GG and 3SEA; and one community service: 3GCR. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and 3 commercial television services: AMV46, VTV43 and GLV8.

In December 2001, the ABA finalised the Warragul Licence Area Plan. It determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Latrobe Valley. ■

Variations to digital channel plans

for North Eastern Victoria and Central Coast Queensland

The variation to the digital channel plans for Regional Victoria includes the allotment and assignment of channels for digital television repeater services at Albury North, Bright, Corryong, Khancoban, Kiewa, Kiewa Valley, Myrtleford, Tawonga South, Walwa/Jingellic and Yackandandah in North Eastern Victoria and Southern NSW.

The ABA has also released a variation to the digital channel plans for Regional Queensland to include the allotment and assignment of channels for digital television repeater services at Eidsvold, Hervey Bay, Miriam Vale/Bororen, Monto, Moura, Rockhampton East, Theodore and Yeppoon in Queensland.

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 Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair. ■

The explanatory papers, which discuss issues raised in submissions, and the variations to the digital channel plans are available on the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au. Copies can also be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.