



The ABA made new community radio broadcasting licences available after consultation with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed. The proposed community radio services will add to the range and diversity of services in Lismore, Lithgow, Swan Hill and Roxby Downs.

New community radio licences

Lismore

The new community radio licence for Lismore, New South Wales has been allocated to North Coast Radio Incorporated (North Coast), to broadcast on 92.9 MHz on the FM band.

The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 October 2004.

North Coast was the only applicant for the Lismore 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 Lismore area.

The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Lismore.

The Lismore area is currently served by three national radio services: 2N2ABCRN; two commercial radio services: 2LM and 2ZZZ. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, three commercial television services: NRN, NEN and NBN; and one community television trial service.

The 2000 Lismore licence area plan determined that one new

community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Lismore.

Lithgow

The new community radio licence in Lithgow, NSW has been allocated to Lithgow Community Broadcasters Inc. (EZY-FM) to broadcast on 90.5 MHz on the FM band. EZY-FM is currently broadcasting on 90.5 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 15 October 2004. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 16 October 2004.

EZY-FM was the only applicant for the Lithgow 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 Lithgow area.

EZY-FM 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 mature/senior citizen community in Lithgow.

The Lithgow area is currently served by two national radio

services: 2LG, 2ABCRN; two commercial radio services: 2LT and 2ICE and one narrowcasting service 2KY. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and three commercial television services: CBN6, CTC41, and WIN44.

The 1997 Lithgow licence area plan determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Lithgow. In September 2002 the

ABA invited applications for a new community broadcasting licence in the area: Lithgow Community Broadcasters Incorporated (EZY-FM) was the only applicant. On 30 January 2003 the ABA decided, under section 85 of the Broadcasting Services Act, not to allocate the Lithgow licence as EZY-FM failed to demonstrate adequate financial capacity to establish and maintain a permanent





community radio service and that the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Lithgow area.

The ABA invited new applications for this licence on 4 June 2004.

Swan Hill

The new community radio licence in Swan Hill, Victoria has been allocated to Swan Hill & District Community FM Radio Inc. (Smart FM) on 99.1 MHz on the FM band.

The permanent community radio broadcasting licence commenced on 19 September 2004.

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.

Smart FM was the only applicant for the Swan Hill 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 Swan Hill area.

The proposed service will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Swan Hill.

The Swan Hill area is currently served by three national radio services: 3MIL, 3ABCFM, 3JJJ; two commercial radio services: 3SH and 3SHI and one open narrowcasting service: 3UZ. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and three commercial television services: BCV 10, AMV 47, VTV 50.

The 1997 Swan Hill licence area plan in 1997 determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Swan Hill. However, it was not until 2003 that the ABA received an expression of interest for the operation of a temporary community broadcasting licence in the Swan Hill area.

Roxby Downs

The new community radio licence in Roxby Downs, South Australia has been allocated to 105.5 Rox FM Inc. (RFI), and will broadcast on 105.5 MHz on


the FM band. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 October 2004.

RFI was the only applicant for the Roxby Downs 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 Roxby Downs area.

RFI 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 in Roxby Downs.

The Roxby Downs area is currently served by four national radio services: 5JJJ, 5ABCN, 5ABCRR and 5ABCFM; and one commercial radio service: 8SAT. It is also served by national television services ABC and SBS, and two commercial television services: QQQ (Seven Central) and IMP.

The 2004 Roxby Downs community radio licence area plan in determined that one new community radio broadcasting licence be made available for Roxby Downs RA1. 

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