



Commercial FM radio service proposed for Launceston

The ABA is proposing to convert a commercial radio service in Launceston from the AM band to the FM band. The ABA is also proposing to make a frequency available for a SBS retransmission service to be operated by the Launceston City Council.

The proposals are contained in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the Launceston radio licence area plan.

All commercial radio broadcasting services in Launceston currently operate on the AM band. The licensee of the commercial radio service 7LA Launceston has expressed interest in conversion of its service from 1098kHz on the AM band to the FM band. The ABA is proposing that 7LA operate on 89.3 MHz in the FM band.

'The ABA is concerned that there are no commercial FM radio services in Launceston,' said Giles Tanner, Acting ABA Chair. 'The ABA's proposal would result in residents of Launceston having access to such services in line with the rest of Australia.'

The licensee of the 7EX commercial radio service has also expressed an interest in conversion to the FM band, but under certain conditions. The ABA is proposing that the 7EX service continue to operate on the AM band at this time, but is proposing that FM channel capacity be shown as available in the frequency allotment plan in the event that circumstances change in the future.

Aspirant broadcaster World Music Radio has advised the ABA that it is interested in providing a multicultural community radio service designed to meet the needs of various ethnic communities of Launceston. The ABA is not proposing to make an additional community radio service available in Launceston, as its preliminary view is that these needs can be met by the existing community radio service 7LTN, and an SBS retransmission service to operate from Trevallyn.

Before reaching a final decision on the proposals, the ABA is interested in receiving comments on the draft variation to the Launceston radio licence area plan, which is available from the ABA web site or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667. The closing date for submissions is 5 pm, Friday 29 October 2004.

Launceston

The Launceston area is currently served by two AM commercial radio services, 7LA and 7EX, that operate on 1098 kHz and 1008 kHz respectively, at a maximum ERP of 5 kW. The area is also served by two wide coverage community radio services (7LTN and 7WAY) and a community radio for print handicapped service emanating from Hobart. Other services in the area include a permanent community local coverage service in Northern Midlands and a temporary community service in the George Town area.

FM radio channels have become available in Launceston following the turning off of the ABC television service on VHF channel 3 in North East Tasmania (Mt Barrow), and operating on the UHF band.

In the April 2004 discussion paper, the ABA sought comments on the issues and the options that may be involved in introducing FM radio services to the Launceston market.

The ABA has identified FM 89.3 MHz and 90.1 MHz as available for use in Launceston, co-sited at Mt Barrow. The ABA has also identified 91.7 MHz as a high power service with a maximum ERP of 192 kW to operate from Mt Barrow and 104.5 MHz as a medium power service with a maximum ERP of 3.5 kW to operate from Trevallyn.

The ABC is interested in conversion of its AM Local Radio service to the FM band to operate with a maximum ERP of 192 kW, subject to a listener survey. The ABA proposes that channel capacity be made available in the frequency allotment plan if the survey results in demand for such a service. ☒

Applications invited for new community radio licences

The ABA's planning process has identified demand for new community services operated by people living in the Mount Beauty area of Victoria, the Charleville area of Queensland and the Alice Springs area of the Northern Territory.

for Mount Beauty ...

The ABA has invited applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence for the Mount Beauty area of Victoria.

Closing dates

Applications for the licence must be received before midnight on 25 October 2004. The ABA will not accept any applications lodged after this date. From Monday, 1 November 2004, copies of



News Update

Applicants should contact the ABA's Licensing Section on 1800 226 667 or (02) 9334 7700 for copies of the application information booklet for each area. General information is also available on the ABA's web site at: www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/licence_types/community/index.htm

Letters of support

Copies of any letters of support included with applications and subsequent support letters received by the ABA will not be displayed on the website or in libraries but can be made available for inspection on request. Anyone who has concerns about public access to their personal details should advise the ABA to treat this information as confidential. Submissions can also be lodged via email to info@aba.gov.au.

all applications received will be placed for public perusal on the ABA's web site at:

www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm.

Copies of all applications received will also be placed in the Mount Beauty Public Library.

Submissions on any applications should be lodged with the ABA by 5 pm on 15 November 2004.

Charleville ...

The ABA has invited applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence for the Charleville area of Queensland.

Closing dates

Applications for the licence must be received before midnight on Friday, 22 October 2004. The ABA will not accept any applications lodged after this date. From Friday, 29 October 2004, copies of all applications received will be placed for public perusal on the ABA's web site at:

www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm.

Copies of all applications received will also be placed in the Charleville Public Library.

Submissions on any applications should be lodged with the ABA by 5 pm on 12 November 2004.


... and Alice Springs

The ABA has invited applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence for the Alice Springs area of the Northern Territory, with a translator service for Tennant Creek.

Closing dates

Applications for the licence must be received before midnight on Wednesday, 20 October 2004. The ABA will not accept any applications lodged after this date. From Wednesday, 27 October 2004, copies of all applications received will be placed for public perusal on the ABA's web site at: www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm.

Copies of all applications received will also be available in the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek Public Libraries.

Submissions should be lodged with the ABA by 5 pm on 10 November 2004. 

New radio services proposed

... for the Nowra area

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for new and improved services in the Nowra area of New South Wales.

The ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available for commercial radio service 2ST Nowra at St Georges Basin and Kangaroo Valley to rectify reception deficiencies within its licence area, and to make FM channel capacity available for an additional community radio service in Sanctuary Point.

The proposals are contained in a draft variation to the Nowra radio licence area plan released for public comment.

The closing date for comment is 22 October 2004.

The explanatory paper includes discussion on a proposal, from Multiform Open Broadcasting Inc., expressing interest in providing an additional community radio service in the Kiama region.

'The ABA's view at this stage is that Multiform Open Broadcasting should consider applying for the third Wollongong/Nowra community radio service already planned on 93.3MHz when it is advertised. This service includes the Kiama area. In the meantime, the group may apply for a temporary community broadcasting licence to provide a temporary service on 93.3MHz,' said Mr Tanner.

and for Perth

The ABA is proposing to make 1170 kHz on the AM band available for a new open narrowcasting radio service in Perth, and to modify the technical specifications for five existing radio services to address transmission issues.

The proposals are contained in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the Perth licence area plan.

'Prominent members of the Chinese business community in Perth have expressed interest in providing a Chinese language service on the vacant channel,' said Ms Maddock. 'If the ABA decides to make a new licence available, it will be allocated at an auction.'

The proposed changes to the technical specifications of the five existing services either reflect changes that have already occurred under the flexibility of the ABA's Technical Planning Guidelines, or proposed changes that may improve reception of the services.

The proposed amendments to the technical specifications are for:

- 6RPH to reflect a change of site and allow for a power increase
- 6AR and 6NR to reflect a move to a higher site using lower power