



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



- 6YMS to allow for an increase in power and reflect a move to a lower site and
- 6PR to reflect a change of site and allow for a power increase.

The ABA is not proposing to make a new community radio service available at this time, electing at this stage to continue the existing temporary community broadcasting arrangements for aspirant groups.

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the Perth radio licence area plan are on the ABA web site, at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/wa/index.htm or by tel: 1800 226 667.

Submissions closed on 24 September 2004. ☒

The draft variation to the Nowra radio licence area plan with an explanatory paper are available from the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/nowra/index.htm, or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667.

Proposal to allow 4BC Brisbane to day/night power switch

The ABA is proposing to formalise changes to the technical specifications of commercial AM radio service 4BC Brisbane, to allow it to continue to operate with day/night switching – that is, operating its service at a higher power during the day time and switching to a lower power at night.

'The proposed change follows lengthy testing by 4BC of day/night transmitter power switching and follows a request from the licensee,' said Mr Tanner.

4BC has been testing the operation of the service using day/night transmitter power switching since late 2001. During this time, the service moved site, resulting in some reception problems in southern parts of the licence area. These reception problems arose due to a commercial decision taken by the licensee of 4BC, with the full knowledge that a reception problem would result. The change was not instigated by the ABA.

The proposal is contained in the draft variation to the Brisbane radio licence area plan.

Closing date for comment

The closing date for comment on the proposal is 15 October 2004. The draft variation to the Brisbane radio licence area plan, with an explanatory paper, is available from the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/qld/brisbane/index.htm or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667. ☒

Channels for digital television repeater services in South East Queensland

The ABA has released proposals to allot and assign channels for digital television repeater services at Boonah, Esk, Linville and Moore in the Brisbane licence area and Ballard, Bell, Chinchilla, Goondiwindi, Miles, Murgon, Tara, Texas and Warwick in the Regional Queensland licence area.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft variation to the Queensland digital channel plans.

'In releasing these proposals, 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 infrastructure to broadcast their digital television services,' said Mr Tanner.

The discussion paper and draft variation to digital channel plans for Queensland: Part 1 – Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and digital channel plans for Queensland: Part 2 – Regional Queensland are available on the ABA web site, www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/qld/index.htm, or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667.

The closing date for submissions is 5 pm, 22 October 2004. ☒

Proposed changes to radio services in Albury

The ABA is proposing the following changes to radio services in the Albury area:

- to increase the power of the Albury commercial radio services 2AAY and 2BDR at Omeo and Falls Creek to enable the licensees to resolve reception deficiencies in these areas.
- to increase the operating power for Omeo, from 50 W to 200 W together with a change of site to Sam Hill, Omeo. The operation of the services at 200 W will be subject to successful test transmissions to ensure no interference is caused to radio services in Mount Beauty, Victoria
- to change the frequencies of the Falls Creek services 2AAY and 2BDR and increase power from 10 W to 1 kW

The proposed changes are in the draft variation to the Albury licence area plan and explanatory paper, available from the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/albury/index.htm or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667.

Closing date for comment
25 October 2004