



# News Update

## Changes to radio services in Bathurst area proposed

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for new radio services in the Bathurst region.

The ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available in Bathurst City on 98.3 MHz to the ABC for a future national service. This is part of the ABA's ongoing commitment to reserve channel capacity for the future provision of the full range of ABC radio services to communities or regional transmission areas with a population of 10 000 people or more.

The ABA also proposes to make FM channel capacity available for the commercial radio service 2BS at Sofala, Burruga and Blayney on 90.1 MHz, 88.1 MHz and 89.3 MHz respectively. These proposals follow consideration of requests from Bathurst Broadcasters, the licensee of the 2BS service, to enable it to resolve reception difficulties in the Bathurst region. These areas were identified by Bathurst Broadcasters as radio blackspots for the purpose of the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program.

The ABA is also proposing to increase the antenna height of the 2BXS FM service at Bathurst from 30 metres to 45 metres to reflect the current operating conditions.

The closing date for comment on the proposal, in the Bathurst radio licence area plan, was 3 December 2004. The draft variation to the Bathurst radio licence area plan together with an explanatory paper are available on the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/bathurst/index.htm>. ☒

## Draft variation to Bega radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to extend the licence area of community radio service 2BAR Bega to include Candelo, Bermagui and Tura Beach, and to specify the effective radiation power of the service at 1 kW. The ABA considers this power level will provide an adequate signal to the primary townships in the extended licence area.

'The proposed change follows a request from the licensee of the 2BAR service to extend its licence area and improve coverage of its service,' said Ms Maddock.

The 2BAR service has operated for two years from a site at Dr Georges Mountain, initially on an ERPOf 2 kW. The ERP of the service was lowered to 350 W after a field survey conducted by the ABA showed that this reduced power level was adequate to serve the licence area.

2BAR has requested the ABA extend its licence area to include those townships which received the service when it operated at the higher ERP. 2BAR has shown that some residents in these townships are members of its service and there are significant community-of-interest ties between Bega and the smaller townships.

The closing date for comment on the proposal, in the Bega radio licence area plan, is 17 December 2004. The draft variation to the Bega radio licence area plan, with an explanatory paper, is available from the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/bega/index.htm>. ☒

## New radio channels proposed for Port Stephens

The ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available for commercial service 2HD Newcastle and five national radio services at Port Stephens, New South Wales.

'The draft technical specifications for FM radio translators at Port Stephens have been developed with the objective of minimising any possible interference to television reception in the area,' said Ms Maddock. 'If any interference does occur when services commence, it will be the responsibility of the radio broadcasters to rectify it.'

FM radio translators for the Port Stephens area have the potential to cause interference to the reception of television services where viewers are watching Newcastle television services using mast head amplifiers.'

Before finalising the technical specifications, the ABA is interested in receiving comments on the draft variation to the Newcastle radio licence

### Licence area plans

For copies of all licence area plans, tel: 1800 226 667

