



Improved community radio service in Cocos Islands

The ABA has decided to make additional FM channel capacity available for the community radio service operating in the Cocos Islands.

It is planned that the additional FM channel will operate on 102.7 MHz from the Home Island of the Cocos Islands.


The ABA's decision is contained in its variation to the licence area plan for Remote Western Australia radio.

'The ABA has taken into account the views of those who made submissions before making its decision. The additional channel capacity will allow the community radio service to provide better coverage to listeners on the Cocos Islands,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chair.

The ABA determined the Remote Western Australia radio licence area plan in August 1996.

In determining the licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for a community radio service to operate on 96.0 MHz at Cocos Islands from the West Island.

Voice of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Inc. has been operating on 96.0 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence since September 2002. Voice of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands requested another frequency to be able to adequately serve both the West and Home Islands. The two islands are far apart and it would be difficult to serve both islands with one transmitter.

The variation to the licence area plan for Remote Western Australia radio is on the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/wa/index.htm or for copies, tel: 1800 810 241. 

ABA member reappointed



Jane Marquard has been re-appointed as a part-time member of the ABA for a 4-year term, commencing on 8 March 2004.

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts welcomed the re-appointment of Ms Jane Marquard as a part-time member of the ABA.

In his statement making the announcement, the Hon. Daryl Williams said, 'Ms Marquard has substantial experience in policy development and regulatory matters, including as a member of the ABA since March 2001.

She has more than five years direct experience in the commercial television broadcasting industry as Corporate Counsel for the Nine Network and as Manager of Policy Development for Publishing and Broadcasting Limited (PBL).

While at PBL, Ms Marquard worked as an industry representative on issues such as Australian content, television codes of practice, complaints policies and competition issues.

She was also a Council Member of the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (now Commercial Television Australia) from 1996 to 1999.

Ms Marquard has made a valuable contribution to the work of the ABA over the past three years and her re-appointment will provide continued experience and important industry knowledge to the organisation.' 