



Proposal to remove power restrictions on Melbourne radio services

The ABA is proposing to remove the special condition that requires three Melbourne radio services to operate with restricted radiation patterns towards Tasmania. The three services are a commercial radio service planned to operate on 91.5 MHz and community radio services operating on 89.9 MHz and 90.7 MHz

The proposals are contained in a draft variation to the Melbourne radio licence area plan.

In reaching its views, the ABA has considered the fact that the ABC has ceased the television service on channel 3 from Mt Barrow in North East Tasmania. The service is now provided on UHF channel 32. Therefore the frequencies 91.5 MHz, 89.9 MHz and 90.7 MHz (which are all within the frequency range covered by VHF channel 3) are able to operate without restriction in the direction of Tasmania.

The ABA determined the Melbourne licence area plan in June 2000. In making its decision, the ABA identified that the 91.5 MHz, 89.9 MHz and 90.7 MHz frequencies would require restricted operation while the ABC television service on channel 3 in North East Tasmania continued to operate.

A copy of the draft licence area plan variation and explanatory note is available from the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. The ABA is now calling for submissions on its proposal.

The closing date for comment was 19 March 2004.

- confirm the technical parameters of each of the existing analog television services and
- vary the designation of licence areas to 2001 Census boundaries.

The proposals are contained in explanatory papers and draft variations to licence area plans.

Copies and submissions

The draft licence area plan variations and the accompanying explanatory papers are available on the ABA web site www.aba.gov.au or tel: 1800 226 667.

Send submissions by:

email to: regionalTVLAPS@aba.gov.au

fax to: (02) 6253 3277

mail to:

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Proposed channels for digital TV services in Gippsland and south west Victoria

The ABA has released proposals to allot and assign digital channels for television repeater services at 20 locations in the Gippsland and South West regions of Victoria. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

The Gippsland locations are Bairnsdale, Bruthen, Cann River, Churchill, Foster, Genoa, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Nowa Nowa and Orbost.

The locations in the South West Region are Apollo Bay, Casterton, Cobden, Colac, Coleraine, Halls Gap, Lorne, Portland, Warrnambool, and Warrnambool City.

The proposals are contained in discussion papers and draft variations to digital channel plans.

'In releasing these proposals, the ABA weighed up a number of important factors. These included broadcasting frequency spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers must make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital television and the desirability of broadcasters being able to use their existing infrastructure to broadcast digital television services,' said Professor Flint.

'The ABA has at all times given the interests of viewers a high priority. However, the proposals



Variation to TV licence area plans for Riverland and Spencer Gulf

The ABA has released its draft variation to the licence area plans for analog television services in the Riverland and Spencer Gulf areas of South Australia. The drafts set out the ABA's preliminary views on the variations to the number and characteristics of television services in these areas.

The draft variations include proposals to:

- remove the technical specification for alternative channels that were made available in the event that VHF Band II and channel 5A services in the areas were cleared
- vary the technical specifications of services to reflect the current operating conditions

Closing date for submissions

5 pm, 9 April 2004