



## Closing date for submissions

5 pm, Friday 13 February 2004.

## for copies

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the Sydney licence area plan is available on the ABA website

at: [www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm) or tel: 1800 226 667.

## Change proposed for Penrith open narrowcasting service

The ABA is proposing a change to the transmission site and radiation pattern for a Penrith open narrowcasting radio service planned to operate on 1476 kHz in the AM band. The proposal follows a submission made by the licensee of the service, Penrith Open Narrowcasting Licence Partnership.

The proposal is contained in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the licence area plan.

'The successful bidder for the service has had difficulty in securing a suitable transmission site and the proposed change in site and radiation pattern will allow the licensee to begin implementation of the service,' said Professor Flint.

In August 2003 the licensee of PONLP requested the use of an alternative transmitter site to that specified in the Sydney licence area plan. The licensee has stated that more than 15 sites have been explored.

The proposed site is located 600 m outside the boundary of the licence area plan specified 15 km radius for the service and is proposed to be located 13 km south east of Penrith. The nominal site in the licence area plan is Emu Plains Penrith, which is 5 km north west of Penrith. Under the ABA's technical planning guidelines, the change of nominal transmitter site is permitted within the confines of a 'licence area' or 'coverage radius' provided that the radiation pattern is adjusted to be within the original radiation envelope.

Before reaching a final decision, the ABA is interested in receiving comments on the draft variation.

## Draft variation to Charleville radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to vary the technical operating conditions of the existing commercial radio service, 4VL, in Charleville and Cunnamulla. A part of this proposal is to allow 4VL to implement day/night switching of its transmission power. The ABA is also proposing to make FM channel capacity available for 4VL in the areas of Augathella, Morven, Mungallala, Quilpie, Tambo and Wyandra.

In addition the ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available in Charleville for a new community radio service.

'The ABA's proposals follow consideration of a request from the licensee of 4VL, Pinecam Pty Ltd, to enable it to resolve reception deficiencies in the region,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

The additional FM channel capacity has been planned by the ABA under the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program. This program is an Australian Government initiative that will provide \$5 million over three years to deliver new or improved commercial radio services to regional and remote communities where it has not been commercially viable for licensees to provide coverage. The program will ensure that greater access to commercial radio services is provided to a large number of people located in regional and remote Australia.

The ABA is also proposing to include FM frequency 104.1 MHz in the Charleville radio licence area plan, which is the frequency licensed to 4TAB for its open narrowcasting service in Charleville. 'This alternative frequency was identified for 4TAB in 1999 when the ABA proved 103.3 MHz to be unusable in the manner for which it was designed and subsequently purchased at auction,' said Professor Flint.

### C and P programs

*Programs granted C and P classification between 20 November 2003 and 20 January 2004. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA's Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.*

<i>Program title</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>New/renewal</i>	<i>Decision dated</i>	<i>Applicant</i>
Foreign exchange (series 1)	Australia	PRC	new	11.12.2003	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd
Girl TV	Australia	PRC	new	4.12.2003	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd
Scooter: secret agent series 1 (episodes 14 - 26)	Australia	CD	new	5.12.2003	Jonathan M Shiff Productions

*C - children's program, CD - C drama, P - preschool, PRC - provisional C, PRP - provisional P Class. - Classification*



# News Update

Before reaching a final decision the ABA sought comment on the proposals to change 4VL's technical specifications and the additional FM translator frequencies for 4VL.

**For copies**

The draft variation to the Charleville radio licence area plan with an explanatory paper are available on the ABA's website: [www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm) or tel: 1800 226 667.

## Channels proposed for digital TV services

The ABA has released proposals to allot and assign digital channels for television repeater services at eight locations in Inland and North Coast NSW. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.



The ABA has also released proposals to allot and assign digital channels for television services at Mount Isa in Queensland, Karratha and Roebourne in Western Australia, and Alice Springs and Katherine in the Northern Territory.

The proposals are contained in discussion papers and drafts of the relevant 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 Professor Flint.

'The ABA has at all times given the interests of viewers a high priority. However, an option is contained in the draft variation to the digital channel plan for Gloucester, NSW, which may result in Prime Television, licensee of NEN, needing to change its VHF channel 11 analog service at Gloucester by 1 MHz if it wishes to commence its digital television service on the VHF band. The ABA has requested advice from Prime Television on this issue,' said Professor Flint.

**For copies**

The discussion papers and draft variations to digital channel plans for: NSW: Part 4 and NSW: Part 5 – Inland NSW; Western Australia: Part 2 – Remote and Regional; revised draft variation for commercial DCPs for Western Australia: Part 2 – Remote and Regional; and draft digital channel plans for Remote Central and Regional Australia, are available on the ABA website: [www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/index.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/index.htm) or tel: 1800 226 667.

Submissions closed on 30 January.

## Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated from 21 November 2003 to 20 January 2004.

<i>Area served</i>	<i>Licensee</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date allocated</i>
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Tumbarumba	Upper Murray Community Radio Inc.	107.7 MHz	12.12.2003 to 11.12.2004	12.12.2003
<b>Victoria</b>				
Walwa / Jingellic	Upper Murray Community Radio Inc.	88.7 MHz	12.12.2003 to 11.12.2004	12.12.2003
<b>Queensland</b>				
Cairns RA2	Smithfield Community Radio Association Inc.	101.9 MHz	1.12.2003 to 31.5.2004	24.11.2003
<b>South Australia</b>				
Cooper Pedy RA1	Dusty Radio Inc.	104.5 MHz	2.12.2003 to 31.8.2004	2.12.2003

