



News Update

New on the Web

In addition to the news releases which are listed on the ABA's home page, www.aba.gov.au, the following items have been posted to the site recently.

- Updated Internet version of the Radio & Television broadcasters handbook:
<http://www.aba.gov.au/broadcasters/>
- Updated community licence renewal information:
http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/licence_types/community/index.htm
- End of 2004 Internet content complaints statistics:
<http://www.aba.gov.au/internet/complaints/statistics/index.htm>



- ▶ This follows consideration of requests from the licensee of 2BS, Bathurst Broadcasters, to enable it to improve reception of its service in the Bathurst region. Bathurst Broadcasters identified these areas for the purpose of the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program.

The ABA has also made channel capacity available for a future national radio service in Bathurst City on 98.3 MHz. This proposal will provide Bathurst City with the full suite of ABC radio services, in line with the Government's 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 above decisions are contained in the variation to the Bathurst radio licence area plan, released in December 2004 for public comment and now available on the ABA's website or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

ABA proposes FM translator for 2MW at Mullumbimby

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for commercial radio service 2MW Murwillumbah to rectify reception deficiencies in the Mullumbimby area of New South Wales.

The ABA proposes to make 103.5MHz on the FM band available for a transmitter at the Vodafone site near Ocean Shores with a maximum effective radiated power of 250W and a directional radiation pattern.

'The ABA's proposal will not only rectify the reception deficiencies in the southern part of the 2MW licence area but ensure that there is no overspill into the adjacent Lismore commercial radio licence area' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair.

The proposal is contained in the draft variation to the Murwillumbah radio licence area plan, which was made available for public comment in December and January. The draft variation and an explanatory paper are available from the ABA's website or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. Submissions were due by 28 January 2005.

ABA proposes merger of Upper Murray community radio areas

The ABA is proposing to extend and combine the licence areas of the Corryong and Walwa/Jingellic community radio services into a single licence area. The extended licence area would include the towns of Corryong, Tintaldra, Tumbarumba and Walwa/Jingellic.

The ABA's proposal follows submissions from the holders of temporary community broadcasting licences in the Corryong and Walwa/Jingellic areas. The submissions, from High Country Christian Broadcasters (Corryong) and Radio Upper Murray (Walwa/Jingellic), were in response to a draft variation to the Albury radio licence area plan released by the ABA in November 2004.

The ABA is also proposing to increase the operating power of the Corryong community service to 2 kW.