



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.



These proposals are contained in the revised draft variation to the Albury radio licence area plan released for public comment in December 2004.

In addition to these proposals, the ABA also investigated the possibility of using a single frequency to cover the proposed extension of the Walwa/Jingellic licence area. The revised draft variation now contains two options for a Walwa/Jingellic community radio, and the ABA seeks comments on these options.

The proposals contained in the November 2004 draft variation relating to the Albury national, commercial, community, Wodonga community and Omeo community radio services have not changed. Submissions were due by 21 January 2005.

New community radio licence for Gilgandra, NSW

The ABA has allocated one new community radio licence in Gilgandra, NSW to Warrumbungles Community Broadcasting Association Inc (WCBAI).

The Gilgandra service will broadcast on 98.9 MHz on the FM band. WCBAI is currently broadcasting on 98.9 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 20 December 2004. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 21 December 2004.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Gilgandra area,' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community in the licence area.'

The ABA made this licence available after a process of consultation with the people of the local

community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed.

WCBAI was the only applicant for the Gilgandra licence.

WCBAI was operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The new service will provide programs covering a wide range of local issues that will appeal to the general community in Gilgandra.

ABA extends community television trial in Lismore for a further six months

The ABA has decided to extend the community television trial in Lismore, NSW, until 30 June 2005.

The trial will be operated by the current triallist, LINC TV Incorporated (LINC TV). The service will operate under the open narrowcasting television 'class licence' for community and educational non-profit purposes. LINC TV's previous trial licence expired at midnight on 31 December 2004.

On 26 August 2004, the ABA invited applications for a permanent community broadcasting licence for Lismore to broadcast on UHF channel 68. LINC TV applied for the licence on 25 November 2004. However, the ABA cannot allocate a community television broadcasting licence to an applicant unless it is a company limited by guarantee. As an incorporated association, therefore, LINC TV is not eligible for the allocation of a community television broadcasting licence.

An extended trial in Lismore will provide LINC TV with an opportunity to develop the capacity necessary to provide a permanent community television broadcasting service. The ABA will review the situation prior to 30 June 2005.

There was an error in last issue's list of C and P Programs. The list is reproduced here correctly.

C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 22 October and 22 November 2004. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA on (02) 9334 7700.

Program	Episodes	Program style	Program type	Country of origin	New/renewal	Class.	Decision date	Applicant
Maddigan's Fantasia (series 1)	1 - 13	Live action	Drama - Series	Australia	New	PRC	4.11.04	Burberry Productions Pty Ltd
Wicked Science 2 (series 2)	1 - 13	Live action	Drama - Series	Australia	New	CD	3.11.04	Jonathan M Schiff Productions Pty Ltd
Streetsmartz (series 1)	1 - 13	Live action	Drama - Series	Australia	New	PRC	27.10.04	AIP Entertainment Pty Ltd

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