



Revised digital terrestrial television broadcasting handbook now available

The ABA has released a revised edition of its *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Handbook*.

'The Handbook provides a comprehensive explanation of the technical assumptions underlying the planning of digital television services,' said Ms Maddock.

The Handbook details the general technical assumptions to which the ABA will have regard when preparing digital channel plans for metropolitan and regional markets, under the Commercial Television Conversion and National Television Conversion schemes. It also explains the technical planning processes involved in planning of new digital television services as well as the conversion of existing analog television services.

Under Part A of the Commercial and National Television Conversion schemes, the ABA is required to publish a document explaining the technical assumptions to which it will have regard when considering whether the transmission of a commercial or national television broadcasting service in standard definition television

digital mode will achieve the same level of coverage and potential reception quality as is achieved by the transmission of that service in analog mode. The ABA may also publish an explanation of other general technical assumptions to which it will have regard when preparing a digital channel plan under Part A of the conversion schemes.

This latest review of the Handbook provides:

- clarification of the scope and application of the Handbook
- amendments to ensure reference to the latest editions of applicable International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Recommendations and Australian Standards
- alignment of relevant protection ratios with latest ITU planning values
- a more comprehensive explanation of the technical assumptions underlying the planning of digital television services, website and
- the inclusion of additional explanatory text detailing the obligations of digital licensee's under the ABA's Technical Planning Guidelines and Interference Management

Scheme and the Australian Communication Authority's electromagnetic radiation framework.

The amendments to the Handbook were made in consultation with broadcast industry representative bodies including the Digital Television Channel Planning Consultative Group. The Consultative Group is the main industry advisory group to the ABA on matters relating to digital television planning. The Group includes representatives from metropolitan and regional commercial broadcasters and national broadcasters, as well as a range of other stakeholders including the Australian Communications Authority, FreeTV Australia, subscription television operators and transmission facility service providers. ☐

For copies

The revised *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Handbook* can be viewed on the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/handbook.htm.
or tel: 1800 226 667
or email: digital@aba.gov.au.



Recent planning decisions

FM radio services for Launceston

The ABA has decided to convert both commercial radio services and the ABC Local Radio service in Launceston, Tasmania from the AM band to the FM band.

'This decision represents a significant change for radio listeners in Launceston and will result in them having access to the improved sound quality of FM radio currently enjoyed in other Australian communities of comparable size,' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA chair.

The ABA decided that commercial radio services 7LA would operate on 89.3 MHz and 7EX would operate on 90.1 MHz in the FM band.

The ABA also decided that the ABC Local Radio service would move from 711kHz on the AM band to operate on 91.7 MHz in the FM band. The ABC's other national radio services, NewsRadio, Classic FM, Radio National and Triple J all operate on the FM band in the Launceston region. The FM

channel will also result in improved reception of ABC Local Radio in the area.

On the evidence currently before it, the ABA is not satisfied that an additional community radio service in the Launceston market would be likely to add substantial diversity to the programs available in the market. An aspirant community radio group, World Music Radio, has expressed interest in providing a multicultural community radio service in the area. The ABA notes the proposal to introduce a self-help SBS radio service in Launceston (with the Launceston City Council as licence holder) and proposes to review the community radio situation in two years.

The decisions are contained in the variation to the Launceston licence area plan, available from the ABA's website, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/tas/launceston/index.htm or tel: 1800 226 667. ☒

Improved commercial radio reception in Mullumbimby

The ABA has decided 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 has made 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 decision 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 Ms Maddock.

The ABA's decision is contained in the variation to the Murwillumbah licence area plan, available from the ABA's website, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/murwillumbah/index.htm or tel: 1800 226 667. ☒