



Recent planning decisions

New and improved radio services in Albury region

The ABA has decided to make channel capacity available for new and improved radio services in the Albury region of New South Wales.

'The ABA's decisions follow consideration of requests from the licensees of existing services and aspirant community radio broadcasters in the Albury area for improvement to their services,' said Ms Maddock

The decisions are contained in a variation to the licence area plan for radio services in the Albury area.

The ABA has decided to increase the operating power of the ABC radio service, 3RN Albury. The increase in operating power will allow 3RN to improve coverage of the service in the outer parts of its service area. However, should operation at the increased power level cause unacceptable interference to 2ST Nowra and 3HA Hamilton, the ABC

service will be required to decrease its operating power to a suitable level.

The ABA also decided to make alternative channel capacity available for the 2AAY and 2BDR commercial radio services at Falls Creek together with an increase in power from 10 W to 1 kW. These changes will improve coverage of the commercial services in the Falls Creek area and also provide better off-air signal inputs to the commercial translators at Omeo.

At Omeo, the ABA has decided to increase the operating power of the 2AAY and 2BDR commercial radio services together with a change of transmitter site. However, should the increase in power at the new site cause unacceptable interference to 3NE Mount Beauty and 3VKV Mount Beauty, the 2AAY and 2BDR services will be required to decrease the operating power to a suitable level.

The ABA also decided to make channel capacity available for a new permanent community radio service in Wodonga. The Wodonga community radio service will operate on 100.7 MHz. Albury Wodonga Christian Broadcasters have expressed interest in providing a permanent community radio service in Wodonga.

In addition, the ABA has decided to extend and combine the licence areas for the Corryong and Walwa/Jingellic community radio services into a single licence area, the Upper Murray. The new licence area encompasses the towns of Corryong, Tintalra, Tumberumba and Walwa/Jingellic. The ABA has also decided to permit an increase in the operating power of the Corryong community service to 2 kW.

The ABA has also made additional channel capacity for the former Walwa/Jingellic commu-

nity radio service at Tumberumba and Corryong on 107.7 MHz and 98.9 MHz respectively to ensure adequate coverage to the extended licence area.

High Country Christian Broadcasters and Radio Upper Murray currently hold temporary community broadcasting licences at Corryong and Walwa/Jingellic respectively and have expressed interest over a number of years in providing permanent community radio services.

The ABA will call for applications for the permanent allocation of the Wodonga and two Upper Murray community radio services in the near future.

The variation to the licence area plan for radio services in the Albury area is available from the ABA website, at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/albury/index.htm. ☒



Gold Coast radio services – changes to technical specifications

The ABA has decided to make further changes to the technical specifications of a number of Gold Coast radio services, due to various technical issues arising from changes to transmission towers and sites in February 2003.

The decisions are contained in a variation to the Gold Coast licence area plan.

The ABA has decided to revise the technical specifications for community radio service 4MET to reflect a change of site from Lower Beechmont to Mount Tamborine; correct minor radiation pattern discrepancies in the technical specifications for commercial radio service 4HTB and community radio service 4RHI; and revise the technical specifications for community radio service 4CAB to minimise the potential for interference to an ABC radio service in the Darling Downs.

The initial Gold Coast radio licence area plan was deter-

mined in December 2000 and made available three additional community radio services (now 4CAB, 4RHI and 4MET) and one additional commercial radio service (now 4HTB). All services were planned to operate from Mount Tamborine at an antenna height of 22 metres on a 40 metre tower with the other three existing FM services (4SEA, 4GLD and 4CRB).

The licence area plan was varied in February 2003 as the new services could not be readily accommodated on the existing FM transmitting antenna system and together with the existing radio services on the tower, could potentially cause higher electromagnetic radiation levels in the immediate vicinity. The facility provider, TX Australia, offered to accommodate the additional FM radio services on an adjacent 90 metre tower. The variation changed the specified antenna height for 4HTB, 4RHI and 4CAB from 22 metres to 63 metres, and re-

duced the maximum effective radiated power (ERP) in some sectors to compensate for the height gain. The February 2003 licence area plan variation also included a change of site for 4MET which had asked to operate at Lower Beechmont instead of Mount Tamborine.

In the recent round of changes, the licensee of 4MET sought a change of site back to Mount Tamborine (the original site in the licence area plan) as the Lower Beechmont site operator is unable to accommodate the service with an ERP of more than 1 kW. Under test licence arrangements, 4MET has been temporarily accommodated on the Mount Tamborine site with the other new services on the 90 metre tower.

The variation to the Gold Coast licence area plan is available from the ABA's website, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/qld/gold_coast/index.htm, or tel: 1800 226 667.



Television Sydney has six months extension

The ABA has decided to grant Television Sydney Limited (TVS) a six month extension, until 23 October 2005, to commence its service. TVS requested the extension so it could arrange delivery and installation of equipment.

TVS was allocated a licence to provide a community television service for Sydney in March 2004.

TVS recently sought and received ABA approval to use a more powerful transmitter than was originally determined in the Sydney licence area plan. TVS is seeking a 20 kW transmitter, an initiative that will significantly increase the number of Sydney households that can receive the channel. The ABA considers that this extension will assist TVS in providing a high quality and wide coverage community television service in Sydney.

Under the Broadcasting Services Act a licensee must commence service within a year of being allocated a licence, or within a longer period as notified in writing by the ABA. 