



Proposed changes to Mount Tamborine services

The ABA has released options regarding variations to the technical operating conditions of the existing 4RBL and 4BRZ FM commercial radio services at Mount Tamborine, Queensland.

The options include modifying the maximum transmitting power in certain directions, incorporating an increase in the antenna height for these services, or retaining the technical operating conditions as they are currently determined.

'The options presented follow consideration of a request from the licensee, Rebel FM, to accommodate a less expensive option to commission its services,' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair.

It has also been submitted that improved coverage from Mount Tamborine by Rebel FM is required to give it technical parity in the Mt Tamborine area with other services operating from the site.

The ABA has sought views on each of these options, noting that its decision in this matter is ultimately about outcomes for audiences.

In addition, the ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available for the 4RBL FM service at Barrington and Coomba Park/Stroud on 97.4 MHz and 94.1 MHz respectively. These proposals follow consideration of requests from Rebel FM, to enable it to resolve reception difficulties in these regions. These areas were identified by Rebel FM as radio blackspots for the purpose of the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program.

This program is an Australian Government initiative which 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 in regional and remote Australia.

The ABA is also proposing to make FM channel capacity available in the Coomba Park/Stroud area for Rebel FM's second commercial radio service, 4BRZ, on 93.1 MHz.

The proposals are contained in the draft variation to the Remote Central and Eastern Australia radio licence area plan released in December 2004. Submissions were due by 28 January 2005.

The draft variation and explanatory paper are available from the ABA's website or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667.

Changes to digital TV repeater services on NSW South Coast

The ABA has made changes to the technical operating conditions of commercial digital television repeater services at Ulladulla and Batemans Bay/Moruya on the NSW South Coast. These include:

- changing the digital channel assignments at Batemans Bay/Moruya to assign channel 66 to Prime and make channel 58 unassigned
- allowing Prime, WIN and Southern Cross to increase power from 20 kW to 40 kW for the commercial digital television services at Ulladulla

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in the period 20 November 2004 to 24 January 2005.

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
NSW				
Ulladulla RA1	Milton Ulladulla & District Community Radio Association of Broadcasters Inc.	102.7 MHz	07.2.2005 – 06.02.2006	17.12.2004
Coffs Harbour RA3	Coffs Harbour Christian Broadcasters Inc	94.1 MHz	01.03.2005 – 28.02.2006	20.01.2005
Qld				
Mackay RA2	Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Media Association Ltd	105.9 MHz	6.06.2004 – 5.06.2005*	23.11.2004
Victoria				
Bendigo RA4	Central Victoria Gospel Radio Inc	101.5 MHz	01.03.2005 – 28.02.2006	20.01.2005

* Licence period extended