



New community radio licence for Eden, NSW

The successful applicant for the new community radio licence, Eden Community Radio Inc. (ECRI), will broadcast on 104.7 MHz on the FM band.

ECRI is currently broadcasting on 104.7 MHz under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 30 September 2005. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 1 October 2005.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Eden area,' said Ms Maddock. '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 the licence available after consultation with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed.

ECRI was the only applicant for the Eden licence. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed general service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community in the Eden area. ☐

Community television trial in Mt Gambier, SA

The ABA has invited Bushvision Inc. to operate a community television trial service in Mount Gambier.

The ABA will make UHF channel 37 available for 12 months for the trial. The service will operate under the open narrowcasting television class licence and must be for community and educational non-profit purposes only.

BushVision is proposing a general service to meet a variety of

local community needs. It has been able to demonstrate broad community support and has established relationships with potential content providers from the Mount Gambier area.

'Community television can play a valuable role in meeting local needs, providing an outlet for innovative and niche programming and opening opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers to train in television production, programming and management', said Ms Maddock. ☐

Radio and TV profit both up by more than 16%

The commercial radio industry posted a profit of \$123.6 million while commercial television generated profits of \$591 million in 2003-04.

The profit achieved by the 272 reporting commercial radio licensees was up by 16.4 per cent compared to 2002-03, while the 53 reporting television licensees increased profits by 16.7 per cent.

'These results show a steady improvement in the financial performance of the radio and television broadcasting industries,' said Ms Maddock.

The \$855 million in revenue generated by radio licensees represents a 10.4 per cent increase over 2002-03. Similarly, the 53 reporting television licensees achieved a 7.9 per cent increase in revenue over the previous year. Commercial television licensees reported \$3724 million in revenue in 2003-04, helping to produce the profit result that is 16.7 per cent above 2002-03. Of the \$3649.7 million in revenue generated by the three major television networks, the Nine Network and its affiliate licensees accounted for \$1507.6 million (41.3 per cent of the networks' total), the

Seven Network and its affiliate licensees \$1116.9 million (30.6 per cent) and the Ten Network and its affiliate licensees \$1025.2 million (28.1 per cent).

As a result of the increases in sector revenue, the commercial broadcasting licence fees collected by the ABA rose to \$243.1 million, 12.5 per cent more than the \$216.1 million collected last year. The fees are based on annual gross earnings declared by the commercial television and radio sectors.

The ABA collected \$225.2 million in licence fees from commercial television services in 2003-04 (compared to \$199.8 million in the previous year) and \$17.9 million from commercial radio services (\$1.6 million more than in 2002-03). Under the Regional Equalisation Plan, which subsidises television licensees for the cost of introducing digital services in regional areas, rebates totalling \$23.6 million were claimed in December 2004, and offset against television licence fees owing for 2003-04.

Broadcasting Financial Results 2003-04 is available on CD or email, price \$550 (including GST) from the ABA, tel. (02) 9334 7700 or 1800 226 667. ☐