

Call for applications for community radio licences to serve Esk, Mackay and Weipa

ACMA has invited applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence to service each of the Esk, Mackay and Weipa areas of Queensland.

General information about community licences is available on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au (and go to Licences > Broadcasting > Types of licence > Community).

Applicants should contact ACMA's Licensing Section on 1800 226 667 or (02) 9334 7700 for copies of the application information booklet for Esk, Mackay or Weipa.

Copies of all applications received will also be made available for public perusal in the Esk Public Library (applications for the licence to serve Esk), the Mackay City Library (applications for the licence to serve Mackay), and the Weipa Public Library (applications for the licence to serve Weipa).

APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE

Applications for each of the licences must be received before midnight on 13 January

2006. ACMA will not accept any applications lodged after this date.

From 20 January 2006, copies of all applications received will be placed for public perusal on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au (go to Latest > Licence allocations).

SUBMISSIONS

ACMA welcomes written submissions from members of the public in relation to the applications received. Submissions should be lodged with ACMA by 5.00 pm on

3 February 2006. Submissions can also be lodged by email to info@acma.gov.au.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Copies of any letters of support included with applications and subsequent support letters received by ACMA will not be displayed on the website or in libraries but can be made available for inspection on request. Anyone who has concerns about public access to their personal details should advise ACMA to treat this information as confidential.

Draft plan for broadband wireless access auction

In preparation for the auction of spectrum licences in the 2010–2025 MHz band for broadband wireless access (BWA) services, ACMA has released a draft marketing plan and accompanying discussion paper for comment.

There has been growing interest around the world in the potential of wireless broadband technologies to deliver a range of services, including faster internet access. Wireless can provide higher data rates over greater distances and can be more rapidly deployed

than current copper cable technologies. These features, combined with the falling cost of equipment, are generating increasing interest in spectrum suitable for wireless broadband.

To cater for this growing interest, ACMA has proposed a package of initiatives to support and encourage the deployment of wireless broadband services.

The draft plan outlines how the band and geographical areas are to be provided for auction. It will also provide the general technical framework for operation within the spectrum.

It is proposed that buyers will be able to obtain up to 15 MHz of spectrum in eight geographic areas (but only 10 MHz in Western Australia) at auction, with the opportunity to aggregate areas into a wide-area or national licence.

COMMENTS

Comments on the draft plan closed on 5 December 2005. The draft plan and discussion paper, as well as the earlier discussion papers, were published on the ACMA auction website at http://auction.acma.gov.au/current_projects/bwa/index.asp.

Safety measures for mobile chat rooms proposed

ACMA recently invited comment on a draft guide to measures that may be implemented by providers of chat room services to enhance the safety of children in chat rooms accessed via mobile phones.

The draft Safety Measures Notice identifies certain risks to children who are users of mobile chat rooms, and describes measures to minimise the risks. These measures include informing children and parents about

the risks, automatic filtering of chat room traffic and age-restricted access to certain chat rooms.

The notice is intended to provide a best practice guide for mobile phone companies and of chat room service providers in fulfilling their obligations to implement safety measures in mobile chat rooms. These obligations are contained in rules recently made by ACMA, specified in the *Telecommunications Service*

Provider (Mobile Premium Services) Determination 2005 (No.1). The obligations will come into effect after ACMA publishes the final Safety Measures Notice.

COMMENTS

The closing date for comments was 25 November. The draft notice is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to Phones > Premium Services > Premium Phone Services).