

ACMA decides **not to allocate** a permanent community radio licence in **Alice Springs**

ACMA has decided not to allocate a permanent community radio licence in Alice Springs for at least 12 months.

The frequencies set aside for the licence (102.1 MHz—Alice Springs and 102.1 MHz—Tennant Creek) will be made available for temporary community broadcasting purposes for the next 12 months. Aspirant community broadcasters are invited to submit applications to conduct temporary broadcasts during this period.

There were two applicants for the permanent Alice Springs licence—8CCC Community Radio Inc. (8CCC) and CRACA Community Radio Association of Central Australia Inc. (CRACA). Both applicants proposed to provide services targeting the general community.

‘After giving careful consideration to the criteria set out in the legislation and the information provided by both applicants, ACMA has decided that neither applicant merits the licence,’ said Lyn Maddock, Acting ACMA Chair.

‘ACMA will review the situation within 12 months, with a view to readvertising the availability of the licence.’

ALICE SPRINGS LICENCE AREA

The Alice Springs area is currently served by four national radio services (8ABCFM, 8ABCRN, 8AL and 8JJJ); two commercial radio services (8HA and 8SUN); one community broadcasting service (8KIN); two open narrowcasting services; two national television services (ABC and SBS); and two commercial television services (Imparja and QQQ).

Until 31 December 2003, Centralian College held a community broadcasting licence (SL10179/8CCC) in Alice Springs and Northern Territory University (NTU) held a community broadcasting licence (SL10164/8TOP) in Darwin. These two organisations were however amalgamated under the *Charles Darwin University Act 2003 (NT)*, which took effect on 1 January 2004. NTU continued to exist under the new name

of Charles Darwin University. Centralian College however ceased to exist as of 1 January 2004, with a result that it was no longer being able to hold a community broadcasting licence in Alice Springs (SL10179).

The former Australian Broadcasting Authority invited applications for the Alice Springs licence on 22 September 2004. Applications closed on 20 October 2004.

COMMUNITY LICENCE ALLOCATION

Part 6 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides for the allocation of community broadcasting licences.

ACMA uses a merit-based allocation process where applicants compete on the basis of merit for the licence. The process includes opportunity for the public to comment on applications received.

- ACMA must have regard to:
- the extent to which the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community within the

licence area of the proposed service; and

- the nature and diversity of the interests of that community; and
- the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within that licence area; and
- the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service; and
- the undesirability of one person being in a position to exercise control of more than one community broadcasting licence that is a broadcasting services bands licence in the same licence area; and
- the undesirability of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or a political party being in a position to exercise control of a community broadcasting licence.

Under section 85 of the Act, ACMA is not required to allocate a community broadcasting licence to any applicant.

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES

Allocated in September 2005

LICENCE AREA	LICENSEE	FREQUENCY	START DATE	FINISH DATE	DATE ALLOCATED
New South Wales Moss Vale RA1	MVH FM Inc.	92.5 MHz	16/06/05	12/12/05*	15/09/05
Victoria Geelong RA1	Geelong Ethnic Communities Council	94.7 MHz	26/06/05	31/01/06*	14/09/05
Queensland Esk RA1	Brisbane River Valley Radio Inc.	95.9 MHz	12/09/05	11/09/05	08/09/05
South Australia Riverland RA1	Riverland Christian Radio Inc.	93.9 MHz	11/12/05	10/12/06	12/09/05
Western Australia Geraldton RA2	Midwest Aboriginal Media Association	100.5 MHz	28/09/05	27/09/06	22/09/05

* licence period extended